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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-081
Friday
28 April 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-081 *28 April 1989*

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Cuba

Nguyen Van Linh, Castro Continue Official Talks

BK2604151589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] On 25 April, at the Revolutionary Palace in Havana, the delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh held formal talks with the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro.

The two delegations exchanged views on the issue of Third World foreign debt and unanimously held that there must be active efforts to seek an appropriate solution to this extremely important problem. The talks also dealt with the cause of renovation and the process of readjustment and rectification now under way in Vietnam and Cuba. It was clearly pointed out these two processes were aimed at the common purpose of stepping up the building of socialism and the perfection of socialist society in accordance with the specific socioeconomic and political conditions of each country.

The two delegations held that their talks marked a new development of the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the two peoples.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and reflected the noble comradeship which has always been characteristic of the relations between the two parties.

A grand ceremony was held at the Revolutionary Palace in Havana to confer the Jose Marti Order, Cuba's highest distinction, on Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. On behalf of the Cuban Council of State, Comrade Joe Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made a speech in which he said that "the decision of the Cuban Council of State to confer this high distinction to the outstanding representative of the Vietnamese people is an embodiment of the fine sentiments and the lasting and deep solidarity between the Cuban and Vietnamese peoples."

Comrade Fidel Castro then pinned the Jose Marti Order on Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh.

In his reply, our party general secretary thanked the Cuban leaders for the noble gesture and fine words for the communist party and people of Vietnam and Uncle Ho, the venerated and beloved leader of the Vietnamese people.

The ceremony proceeded in a solemn atmosphere permeated with Vietnamese-Cuban solidarity and friendship.

On the same evening, Comrade Fidel Castro hosted a grand banquet at the Revolutionary Palace in honor of Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and his party.

Further on Visit

BK2704043889 Hanoi VNA in English 1522 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—Official talks were held in Havana yesterday between a delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba led by First Secretary Fidel Castro and the visiting delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] led by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. The Vietnamese delegation also included Dao Duy Tung, Politburo member and secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Le Phuoc Tho, secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Hoang Bich Son, member of the CPV and head of its External Relations Commission; Dau Ngoc Xuan, member of the CPV Central Committee, cabinet minister and vice chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Le Xuan Tung, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee and assistant to the party general secretary; Nguyen Dy Nien, vice foreign minister; and Do Van Tai, Vietnamese ambassador to Cuba.

The Cuban side included Juan Bosque Almeida, Politburo member of the CPC Central Committee and vice president of the State Council; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Lionel Soto, secretary of the CPC Central Committee; Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the CPC Central Committee; Jesus Montane, assistant to the first secretary of the party; Ernesto Melendez, minister, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Ruben Servilio Garcia, head of the party Commission for Sugar Industry; Tania Maceira, deputy head of the CPC Central Committee's International Department; Giraldo Mazola, vice foreign minister; and Armando Saucedo Yero, Cuban ambassador to Vietnam.

The two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and the efforts of the Vietnamese and Cuban people to successfully implement the resolutions of the 6th CPV Congress and the 3rd CPC Congress.

On the relations between the two parties and states as well as the bilateral economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, both delegations expressed their desire to continuously promote and strengthen these relations in the future.

The two sides also exchanged views on the world situation and share the view that continued efforts should be made to resolve all regional as well as international disputes and conflicts through negotiations.

The Cuban side reaffirmed its full support for the April 5 joint declaration of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea on the complete pullout of Vietnamese Army volunteers

from Kampuchea by this September and highly valued the Vietnamese people's assistance to the Kampuchean people in the latter's struggle to defend their national independence.

The two delegations also exchanged views on the question of foreign debts of the Third World countries and unanimously held that efforts should be made to find a satisfactory solution to that important question.

Also mentioned at the talks were the processes of renovation in Vietnam and rectification in Cuba, both of which are aimed at stepping up the socialist construction and perfection in each country under its own political, social and economic conditions.

The two delegations held that the talks have marked a new step of development of the friendship and fraternal solidarity between the two peoples.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere full of mutual understanding and noble comradeship which have long been characteristic of the relations between the two parties.

2d Day in Pinar del Rio

FL2704181589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, are on their 2d day of their tour to Pinar del Rio Province today. The group began its activities with a visit to a tobacco production cooperative and will later go to Los Palacios' rice fields. The work agenda includes a tour to the 30 November sugar agro-industrial complex.

Pinar del Rio's farming includes areas for rice, sugarcane, and tobacco harvests, among other things. These crops are also developed in Vietnam and called Nguyen Van Linh's attention because they are potential sources to increase bilateral cooperation.

End Pinar del Rio Tour

FL2704203389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, have just ended their tour of Pinar del Rio Province in the town of San Cristobal.

Today, the leaders visited an important rice producing area in Los Palacios Municipality where 128 hectares of rice have been planted using the flat terrace method. This method increases water savings by 40 percent and increases production by almost twice as much as traditional farming methods.

Later, Castro and Nguyen Van Linh went to the 30 November sugar agro-industrial complex in San Cristobal. It is the first center of this type and was inaugurated by the revolution in 1981.

Upon ending his visit, Castro told the workers that laborers such as themselves should feel happy and secure knowing that their children are being educated in a new society which guarantees them a dignified and honorable future. The commander in chief also quoted U.S. President George Bush who said that the biggest problem in U.S. schools had three aspects: drugs, drugs, and drugs. Castro compared how our country guarantees the future of our new generations.

Nguyen Van Linh sent a fraternal greeting to the sugar workers of the 30 November complex and expressed his gratitude for the cooperation they maintain with their Vietnamese colleagues while helping the sugar industry develop in Vietnam.

Castro and Nguyen Van Linh's tour ended with a visit to the Guillermo Castillo precooked rice factory, one of three such factories in Cuba.

Leaders Speak to Sugar Workers

FL2804012089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Today Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, ended his visit to Pinar del Rio. He was always in the company of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Van Linh combined his visit of the westernmost province with the visit to the Guillermo Castillo precooked rice factory and the 30 November agro-industrial complex, both of which are in San Cristobal Municipality.

The engineering sector's good results in the rice harvest were shown to Nguyen Van Linh who, for the 2d day in a row and in the company of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, toured Pinar del Rio Province.

The day started by visiting the Los Palacios rice fields. Some 41,000 [as heard] hectares of rice are grown here. This is more than half the amount of rice consumed by the people of Pinar del Rio. Both leaders, the accompanying delegations, and Fidel Ramos, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's [PCC] Executive Bureau in Pinar del Rio, arrived at the 30 November agro-industrial complex around noon. This complex is in San Cristobal, and there were hundreds of workers and their relatives gathered here to see the leader of the Cuban Revolution.

After praising the efforts of the sugar workers, who are now fighting to produce another 25,000 tons of sugar in overfulfillment, Fidel reiterated the unbreaking solidarity with the heroic country in Indochina.

[Begin Castro recording] Imagine, Vietnam is so far away that it is on the other side of the globe. If we, standing here, were to dig a hole straight down through the earth, Vietnam would be on the other side. When it is nighttime here, it is daytime there. When it is noon here, it is 2300 there, at least. There are about 11 hours difference between here and there. So imagine, it is half way around the world—20,000 km from the United States—and not even there can they be left in peace! Look at how long imperialism's arm is!

It is so long it was able to reach over there and kill hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese with their bombings and things. However, they charged them the price for their adventure, despite the fact that they are a poor nation and a small nation. You see how right we are to be ready for them and in always being organized and ready? We do it because it's the only thing that can stop imperialism's adventurism. [applause]

This visit has been brief because of the reasons I have already told you. We have seen the tanks where the process starts, later we saw the mill, and then finally we looked in through here into the third, fourth, and fifth floors. We told Comrade Nguyen Van Linh: Here everything keeps moving. [end recording]

As for the sugar possibilities of San Cristobal Municipality, Castro said:

[Begin Castro recording] We have much land. As you know those aren't good lands, but with drainage we will make it good. This sugar mill can also produce over 100,000 tons, but we need irrigation here and partial drainage there.

Last time I came here, I visited the partial drainage project. We should take him [Nguyen Van Linh] there as well, but we are short on time so we'll have to leave that off of our agenda. [applause] [end recording]

Later, it was our honored guest's turn to say a few words to the people of Pinar del Rio.

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording, in Vietnamese with simultaneous Spanish translation] We have had the honor of visiting this agro-industrial center. In this center, they trained some of our technicians who will build an agro-industrial center in the Vietnamese province of Ten Lieng.

Once again, I wish all of you good health, many successes, and much overfulfillment of your plans so that you may contribute to the successful construction of heroic Cuba. Congratulations. [applause]

Long live the solidarity between Cuba and Vietnam! [crowd is heard to answer "Viva!"] [end recording]

Havana Reports Delegation Arrives in Cape Town

FL2704131989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Cuban delegation that will attend the Joint Angola, Cuba, South Africa Commission meeting on southwest Africa today, is already in Cape Town. Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, is heading the delegation also composed by Ricardo Alarcon, foreign vice minister, and other government and party officials.

First Day of Meetings End

FL2804014389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The first round of the third meeting of the Joint Angola, Cuba, South Africa Commission ended today in Cape Town after discussing matters related with the Namibian situation.

Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesman for the Cuban delegation, said that the debates were focused on how to solve the crisis that has arisen in north Namibia. This crisis has practically halted the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Hidalgo said that views were exchanged on the need to carry out, in as little a time as possible, the verification of the normalization process in Namibia. This process was agreed to at the extraordinary meeting in Mount Etjo, some days ago. The verification, stressed the Cuban spokesman, should begin as soon as the 60-hour, South African withdrawal period ends. This withdrawal will facilitate in the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] guerrillas' trek into neighboring Angola.

Hidalgo said that the Cuban delegation reported on the present position of the withdrawal of Cuban internationalists from Angola.

The third meeting of the joint commission should conclude their work period. In the meantime, Major Julio Fernandez Arzenio, Angolan chief in the mixed commission, protested the South African violations of the Ruancana agreements. These were detected while inspecting the Angola-Namibia border.

As to the established 60-hour retreat of South African forces, one of Pretoria's armed battalions, in sticking with the UN personnel, denounced Fernandez Arzenio.

Jorge Risquet Meets With Angola's Dos Santos

FL2704125589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Some 1,200 SWAPO combatants have moved north of parallel 16 in Angola after leaving Namibia. This was reported in Luanda by Kundi Paiama, Angolan

minister of security, to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, during a meeting in the Angolan capital.

Soviet Presidium Approves Friendship Treaty

FL2704155989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1421 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] It has been officially reported in Moscow that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and the Republic of Cuba. The document was signed on 4 April in this capital by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the secretary general of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev, during the visit of the highest leader of the USSR to Cuba.

The treaty confirms the solid friendship and cooperation ties that have existed since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR over 30 years ago. It also confirms the agreement of opinions on most international problems.

The document consists of a preamble and 14 articles. The penultimate article stipulates that the document is a 25-year treaty and that its validity will be automatically extended every 5 years.

Fisheries Cooperation Accord Signed With USSR

FL2804113789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] A new protocol for cooperation in the field of fisheries and its processing industry has been signed between the Soviet Union and Cuba. The protocol is the final document of the 19th meeting of the joint Cuba-USSR commission for fishery cooperation which continues the efficient relations the two countries have maintained for 25 years.

President Najibullah Sends Greetings to Castro

FL2704152389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1403 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Afghan President Najibullah has received in Kabul Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo, who is attending the festivities for the 11th anniversary of the Afghan revolution. During the meeting, which was also attended by Benigno Perez, Cuban ambassador to Afghanistan, Najibullah sent a greeting to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

The Cuban delegation, which is headed by Rizo, also met with Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. During the discussions, the Afghan official referred to the current situation in the Asian nation and to the struggle in defense of the achievements of the revolution. Other subjects discussed dealt with the future strengthening of the ties between the peoples and parties of Cuba and Afghanistan.

Afghan Ambassador on Revolution's 11th Anniversary

FL2704182889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Apr 89

['Exclusive' interview with Abdul Majid Sarbuland, Afghan ambassador to Cuba, by Alexis Sotolongo at the Afghan Embassy in Cuba—live]

[Text] [Sotolongo] Good morning, Mr Ambassador. Once again I ask you to forgive me for having bothered you at such an early hour. Undoubtedly, many persons in the West thought that the Afghan revolution would not mark this 11th anniversary. Nevertheless, the people, along with the party and government of Afghanistan have been able to last. Mr Ambassador, I would like you to please give us an overview of the current situation in your country.

[Sarbuland in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] First of all, thank you for your question. The Western sources, imperialistic countries, and the reactionary process in our region, they have miscalculated the power of the people of Afghanistan from the very beginning. In reality, our peace proposals were comming from strength, not from our weakness. Now, the people have seen the unfulfillment of the prediction that the government in Afghanistan would collapse a week after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, or a month after the withdrawal, and I don't know what else was predicted. However, we are still there, I mean the people are there and the people's power is there.

We are celebrating the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution on 27 April, which means 3 days later. So I am sure that, looking to my people, and the power of the people, and taking into account that the cause of our people is just, it will not be defeated. I am sure, I believe, that we will celebrate the 12th, 13th, 15th, 20th, and 30th or any anniversary of our revolution. I will not be there, naturally, after 50 years. But, I mean the revolution and the people and their just cause will exist.

Castro Invited To Speak to European Parliament

FL2704211189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Rudy Arndt, member of the German Social Democratic Party and chief of the socialist delegation visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], said that he has invited Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to speak before the European Parliament.

Arndt said that European Parliament is made up of 12 member countries and that over three-fourths of the delegates are from socialist countries. Arndt stressed the

importance of the peace and disarmament policies, as well as those that ease international tension. He also said that aid should be given to the Third World countries, especially the Latin American countries. He added that the European Parliament supports the Contadora Group that is struggling for peace in Central America.

The GDR official spoke about the foreign debt and how this problem should be handled.

The European parliamentarians end their visit to Cuba today.

Commentary Views 100 Days of Bush Administration
FL2704135889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1156 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] The U.S. press and the international public opinion have asked themselves about the effectiveness and the direction of the Bush administration's policy, as the new U.S. President marks his first 100 days in office. The main conclusion of the most objective analyses is that, to date, evidence seems to confirm that the chief executive has a certain vocation for inertia. Politically speaking, this equates to maintaining the policies left by 8 years of the most conservative administration that country has ever had. It seems that Bush favors the policy of passing the buck, and, in certain areas, he shows an inclination for internal or regional matters before taking on global issues.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean—which is facing a crisis of a deteriorating economy, of negative or close to zero growth, due to the foreign debt—the Brady plan does not seem to be substantially different from the Baker plan which was proposed by the Reagan administration. The only substantial difference may be that the Brady plan takes into consideration the need to cancel the debt of approximately 25 Third World countries. I am not saying the plan refers to canceling the debt in its entirety, but rather, approximately 20 percent of it which does not solve the basic problem of the debt—it continues to be unpayable.

Regarding Central America, Bush basically maintains a line of confrontation that is expressed in the support to the counterrevolution with almost $50 million in so-called nonlethal aid. The suport is aimed at maintaining the military and political aggression of the bands created by the United States. The same line of confrontation can be seen regarding El Salvador and Panama. Bush's 100 initial days do not show anything new in the White House.

Raul Castro Congratulates Havana on Fulfillment
FL2804021989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's [PCC] Central Committee and FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] minister, presided over the ceremony marking Havana Province's fulfillment of their sugar quota. Also present was Victorino Lemus, first secretary of the PCC Executive Bureau in Havana Province.

[Begin recording] [Vidal Anaya, member Havana Province Retail Trade Department] Today we have declared that our province, Havana, has fulfilled its sugar production quota. [applause] So now, our mission, and we do not have much to turn to, is to continue applying all our technology and all our resources to continue increasing our production, so that every year we produce a bit more than we did the previous year. [applause]

[Castro] Seven years ago you fulfilled your sugar quota and now you have done it again in 1989. We applaud you because this is very good, but we cannot wait until 1993 to fulfill it again. It must be fulfilled next year! This is called becoming systematic. This is not something we have to wish for; this is something we have to work and create the conditions to make this happen. Every millimeter that is advanced is a millimeter that should be consolidated. We must always advance, and rectify whenever we make a mistake in our process.

I am sure, that just as you have honored the name this center bears—Camilo Cienfuegos—you will do it again in the future, but to do this you need systematic work. We cannot have idealistic, unattainable goals, nor to do this in honor of this day or that; this is the production plan and this is what we have to do! And we will do it! We will not become frustrated; we will advance a millimeter at a time.

I congratulate you on what you have accomplished. I wish, and it is not enough to wish something.... [changes thought] It is as I told you before, that these ups and downs would end and that you would always fulfill your plans. I wish you success not only in production, but in defense as well.

On behalf of the PCC and our commander in chief, to whom I will give this sack of sugar that you are sending him, we congratulate the province for having fulfilled its quota, and in this case—they even say that this is not the best yield—we congratulate the workers and the population of the sugar mill that bears the glorious name of Camilo Cienfuegos.

Fatherland or death! We shall win! [applause] [end recording]

300 Internationalists Welcomed at Havana Airport

FL2804130289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Some 300 internationalist combatants returned to Cuban soil late last night and early this morning. Our veteran officers and soldiers came back victorious in two flights from Angola. Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo; Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee; and Division General Sergio del Valle welcomed them at the airport. Representatives of political and mass organizations and Camilitos also greeted them at the air terminal.

Citizens Arrested for Stealing, Killing Cattle

FL2804132189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Four citizens have been arrested for stealing and killing cattle. They were arrested while they were transporting beef in a pickup truck. The National Revolutionary Police caught them when they were carrying the meat of two cows in a state pickup truck on the highway near San Jose da las Lajas. [Video shows four individuals in front of pickup truck with the pieces of beef.]

The driver of the vehicle tried to flee but the swift action of several police cars frustrated the escape. Citizens Lazaro Lopez, Vismaro Bayin, and Juan Diaz Baro, residents of San Miguel del Padron, as well as Lazaro Valdes, resident of Guanabacoa, were detained in the operation. The detainees were turned over to the prosecution and the seized meat was delivered to state institutions.

Antigua and Barbuda

Percival Appointed Minister Without Portfolio

FL2704161789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1617 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] St John's, Antigua, April 27, CANA—Manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank, Bernard Percival, has been appointed leader of government's business in the Senate. Percival, 39, takes over from minister without portfolio, Donald Sheppard, who died earlier this month. He was sworn in Wednesday, during a ceremony at Government House, as a minister without portfolio. Percival, an executive member of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) was first appointed to the Senate in 1981. He is also chairman of the Caribbean Agricultural Credit Association, headquartered in Jamaica.

Dominican Republic

Further Reportage on Trial of Former President

Witness Accuses Jorge Blanco

FL2704162589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1131 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Last night, Dr Marino Vinicio Castillo, Vincho, accused former President Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco of being the sole responsible person for the alleged embezzlement in the Armed Forces and the National Police. Castillo, the first witness for the prosecution to testify in the trial, exonerated the members of the military who have also been charged.

According to Vincho Castillo, Generals Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez and Eliodoro Barrera Contreras, retired, would have not acted without higher orders. Dr Vincho Castillo said Juan Tomas Pena Valentin, supplier for the Armed Forces, was only a front man of businessman Leonel Almonte.

Castillo, who submitted the complaint, said that during the years he personally dealt with Cuervo Gomez he considered him to be an honest man, a follower of Christian principles.

More on Accusations

FL2704164889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1159 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] General Manual Antonia Cuervo Gomez, retired, said that Dr Marino Vinicio Castillo, Vincho, is a liar. Castillo is the main informer of the alleged embezzlement in the Armed Forces and the National Police. Without asking permission, Cuervo Gomez stood up from the defendant's chair and assured that what Vincho Castillo said before Juan Maria Severino, judge of the seventh criminal court, was not true. Castillo mentioned a number of operations during which millions of pesos had been misappropriated from the armed institutions.

Dr Castillo solely blamed former President Salvador Jorge Blanco of the events during his testimony. For his part, Dr Marino Vinicio Castillo asked Judge Severino to let the record reflect what Cuervo Gomez said against him. Castillo believed the remarks were threatening because of the way they were expressed and noted the state of depression in which Cuervo Gomez is in.

Lawyer Concerned Over Armed Men

FL2704162789 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1143 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The attorneys for former President Salvador Jorge Blanco have expressed their concern and even fear over the number of armed men present in the courtroom where the trial against the former president is being held. Dr Virgilio Bello Rosa referring to the concern of former President Jorge Blanco's defense team said:

[Begin Bello Rosa recording] Each person wearing his respective uniform of the institution he represents has been sent specifically to preserve order and safety in these hearings this tribunal has been holding since the 19th. We reiterate that we are concerned over the number of armed men who are here without identification. Nobody knows who they are and nobody knows what they are looking for in these hearings. This is what we wanted to tell the judge. [end recording]

Judge Juan Maria Severino asked Colonel Bansuet to explain the presence of armed men in plain clothes in the hearings room. The high-level officer told Judge Severino that security of the Justice Palace building located in Ciudad Nueva was guaranteed during the course of the trail. [passage indistinct]

Trial Adjourned Until 2 May

FL2804122489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The trial of former Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco and two retired Army generals has been adjourned until next Tuesday [2 May]. The judge, Juan Severino, decided to postpone the trial when one of the defendants was unable to attend due to medical problems.

The former president is accused of making overpriced sales to the military and also faces two other trials in addition to this one. This is the first time a former Dominican president has been charged with embezzlement.

Election Candidates Accused of 'Inconsistency'

FL2704172589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Lic Jacobo Majutla has said the inconsistency of Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez and Professor Juan Bosch is what does not make them good candidates to win the 1990 elections. The former vice president of the Republic and of the Senate added: Without wanting to offend Dr Pena Gomez, up to now, he is not a viable candidate in the Dominican Republic.

Regarding Prof Bosch, the aspiring presidential candidate for the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party], he added: Juan Bosch has been everything and has been nothing. His inconsistency, as well as Pena Gomez'—although to a lesser degree—is what does not make Bosch a good candidate to win the elections. The former Senator for the National District said: Bosch is not trustworthy for the church, Armed Forces, economic sources, middle class, poor, communists, or anticommunists.

Lic Majutla asserted that the declared presidential candidate for the next elections for the Dominican Liberation Party is going at the same pace as during the last campaign. He said former President Bosch's popularity has begun to decline and should be around the 23 percent level. He immediately added: Juan Bosch raised to the ceiling, that is, where he was going to get a couple of months ago and has already begun to drop.

Four Bombs Go Off in Santo Domingo 27 Apr

FL2804121589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Four bombs went off yesterday in Santo Domingo. At least two small girls were injured by one of the blasts that went off inside the Dominican-American Cultural Institute. That institute is a private facility supported by the U.S. Government offering English classes. Three other bombs exploded in a car in a residential area, one on a downtown street, and one in a hotel. No group has claimed responsibility for the explosions in the Dominican Republic yesterday.

Haiti

Avril Holds 'Tete-a-Tete' With CEP Members

FL2804131289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Prosper Avril has met with the members of the Provisional Election Council, announced a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination yesterday. Lieutenant General yesterday officially received the president and members of the provisional council of the Permanent Election Council. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

This ceremony ended with a tete-a-tete between the president of the Republic and the nine members of the CEP, informs the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Former Commander Pongnon on Fort Dimanche

FL2704190289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Exactly 3 years ago today, a group of people died at the hands of the 22d Company at Fort Dimanche. On the occasion of 26 April, several political leaders have raised their voices to demand that the authorities turn Fort Dimanche into a museum, which would become a site for pilgrimages. [passage omitted]

We recall that in order to commemorate the memory of the victims of Fort Dimanche, several political leaders and the relatives of people who died there had gotten together to organize a mass and a peaceful march to Fort Dimanche, to lay a few wreaths there, in memory of the dead. Another purpose of the march was to swear a thousand times over that the criminal acts that used to take place at Fort Dimanche would never occur again.

However, in the last analysis, six people died and several dozen others were hurt in the incidents that occurred on 26 April 1986, which everyone remembers. [passage omitted]

Thus, more than 2 months ago, the 22d Company was indeed removed from Fort Dimanche. However, according to political leaders, that is not (?enough). Some want

Fort Dimanche to be turned into a school; others want a hospital; still others want a site for pilgrimages; still others want a museum. [passage omitted]

Two months ago, we talked to Major Isidor Pongnon, the former commander of the 22d Company, Fort Dimanche, about what Fort Dimanche had become, after the 22d Company was moved from Fort Dimanche. Listen to his answer.

[Begin Pongnon recording] [Passage omitted] Well, what I can tell you is that it's a problem. They orchestrated a campaign to put Fort Dimanche to another use. OK. So it was assigned to another use. However, this has caused a problem for the Haitian Army.

As I have always said, you have to anticipate any problem, both internal and external problems, that you might have. We have, the Haitian Army has, many important, basic, things in there—an explosives depot, reserves of ammunition, etc. If Haiti, God forbid, should ever be attacked, that is where Haiti will get the things it needs to defend itself. There are many things down there that cost a lot of money. There are several (?storage depots) there.

It seems they (?are planning to) institute an armament department, to be responsible for repairing weapons [rephrases] for the maintenance and guarding of those depots, which are still down there. That is what I have learned might be done. I don't know if this will change in the future. However, since this is no longer my problem.... [changes thought] It is I who used to guard this stuff. I'm not there anymore. Now there is a detachment in charge of guarding the depots and which is going to take care of repairing weapons. I think there is going to be an armament department installed down there.

It isn't a place they can just (?empty) like that, the way people think, because the people asking these things are mainly crazy! They thought [rephrases] they always do monkey business (?bagay de makak), you see? Thinking they can storm Fort Dimanche sort of like the storming of the Bastille, know what I mean? Messing around like that. This is not the French Revolution. The juncture is not the same, know what I mean?

And they think we can just rush out of there, with all those reserves there, which the government cannot buy again! With that money they should buy tractors and work on agriculture or build roads or stuff like that—instead of taking it and investing it in more armament, which we already have. So that's what they are going to do now. [passage omitted]

It's not so much that they are so difficult to transport, for they got them here, didn't they? The problem is, where are you going to install [instale] them now? You can't say you are going to install those things just anywhere! And now the installation is going to cost a lot of money.

But they aren't aware of these things. All they (?care about) is getting the population to applaud and to take to the streets! They don't know what kind of problem this could cause the country. [passage omitted]

No, I'm not saying its impossible, but it is a big hassle. [passage omitted]

I think that with the economic problems this country has, I don't think they can make the investment necessary to move these things, (?for) which they spent 2 years preparing (?a site down there). [end recording]

We remind listeners that the killings of 26 April 1986 in front of Fort Dimanche constituted the first time the civilian population fell victim like that, following the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier on 7 February 1986. [passage omitted]

Dessalines Barracks School To Reopen 2 May

FL2804145289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Dessalines Barracks School, a secondary school, which never opened for the third quarter, following the recent events in Haiti, is to open its doors next Tuesday, 2 May 1989, as of 1700. The school's name has been changed. It will henceforth be known as the Haitian Armed Forces Secondary School. We remind listeners that this school is located at the Dessalines Barracks.

The school's teachers are asked to contact the office of the director for matters in connection with payment for the month of March and for the preparation of teaching materials for the resumption of classes on Tuesday, 2 May, 1989, as of 1700, by order of Andre Jean-Pierre, adjutant-general. Jean-Pierre signs this note, which is from the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters.

Political Groups, Figures on Elections

FL2804125389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Members of the political class are showing themselves to be increasingly skeptical regarding the organization of elections in Haiti. [Reporters] Rothschild and Smoy have collected diverse reactions.

[Unidentified speaker—live or recorded] The first of several (?flashing lights) on Haiti's political board, Jean-Claude Roy of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists [UCH] calls for power-sharing. Roy suggests that an expanded national forum find for President Prosper Avril, or submit for his approval, two fellow councillors—one political and one economic—as well as credible ministers. General Avril would remain the president of this council and would devote himself to organizing the Army and the new police corps. This new transitional

government council would coordinate a minimal, transitional, program voted on and accepted by the participants of this expanded national forum, and would see to it that the program is strictly applied. Roy explains further what he means by power-sharing.

[Begin Roy recording] It is not a government such as we had in 1956, not a collegial government to which each political party would send representatives. That is certainly not what I have in mind. However, I think that, as is done in the great democracies, through transparency in the appointing of the different members.... [changes thought] In order to win the population's trust, the president could submit names of advisors who should come join him in a government council. And he could submit names of ministers who would have a certain amount of credibility because they would have been gone over with a fine-tooth comb by an assembly that would, hopefully, be credible, an assembly made up of a broader base of the private and political sectors.

This is so we don't go off again into hostile, sterile criticism, where people find something bad to say about every single minister appointed, and where every single action the government takes, even if it is good, is criticized.

No, I think we need to walk together along this part of the path. I think we have to, as of today, give the Haitian people the opportunity to participate in this phase of the transition. [passage omitted]

I think this is one possible solution. Maybe it isn't the miracle solution, and maybe it won't result in what we want either. But I think that in a democracy—and no one person can bring about a democracy, no one person can impose himself.... [changes thought] I think we should learn together. I think we should stumble together, stand back up together, and, eventually, cross over together! [end recording]

Mr Roy thinks that it would be to President Avril's advantage to agree to share power. He thinks the creation of such a credible transitional government could mitigate the serious political crisis the nation is facing. The UCH leader also thinks that it is not a good idea to leave President Prosper Avril, a military man, to get over this hump, to steer this difficult course, alone—for to do so entails risks for the nation.

[Begin Roy recording] (?It is up to) President Avril to accept or not accept power-sharing. Only he knows what is best for himself personally—and also what is best for the nation. However, we couldn't just let President Avril steer this course alone. If he were to get over this hump alone, the nation would be running a very big risk—for a military man to have gotten over this hump alone.

I myself think it's virtually impossible; nevertheless, should he make it over the hump alone, it would be a big danger for the nation. Even just psychologically. Within the spirit of our Haitian culture, people would say that, indeed, only a military man is capable of getting the country out of such a crisis. This would not fit in with what we want. Democracy is not implanted through bayonets. The military should not be in the government in a democracy. No. One of the principles of democracy is that the civilian hierarchy is dominant. [end recording].

Regarding elections, Roy affirms that they are not possible right now, at such a particularly difficult juncture. The solution to the crisis obligatorily entails a credible transition of government, and not the publication of a "magic date" for presidential elections, says Jean-Claude Roy.

Regarding this matter, Roy is not on the same wavelength as the president of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development], Hubert de Ronceray, who would like to see elections held before the end of 1989.

[Begin de Ronceray recording] [Passage omitted] We don't want to wait anymore. What are we waiting for? We have waited for 3 years and [consequently] killed the country. What are we waiting for now? What miracle are we expecting?

The country is capable of voting. Put the people in a position to give themselves a legitimate civilian government capable of unblocking things for this people, which suffers too much. [end recording]

For his part, Rockefeller Guerre [of the Union of Democratic Patriots, UPD] goes to war against the government of Prosper Avril, whose resignation he once again demands. The UPD leader thinks that only a provisional government issuing from a consensus can ensure the transition to democracy.

Regarding the Provisional Election Council [CEP], Guerre considers it unconstitutional, and he calls on the members of the CEP to think long and hard about the role they are playing in Prosper Avril's plot against the nation.

The UPD leader thus exhorts the members of the CEP to preserve their dignity by organizing honest elections.

Furthermore, Mr Guerre does not discard the possibility of an overthrow of the Avril government before elections are held. Fiercely opposed to President Avril, Guerre thinks that Avril wants to hold on to power as long as possible, with Uncle Sam's blessings.

And since we have just mentioned the members of the CEP, we have the Democratic Bloc's reaction to them.

Indeed, the Democratic Bloc considers the third edition, so to speak, of the CEP a danger to both the Haitian people and the democratic sector. Thus, the Democratic Bloc has doubts as to the normal unfolding of future

presidential elections in Haiti. The Democratic Bloc—which, we remind listeners is made up of political parties such as the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots], etc. —says that by deciding to organize municipal, legislative, and Casec [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] elections before the presidential elections, the government is obviously seeking to favor Duvalierists and candidates supported by foreign countries. Therefore, the Democratic Bloc asks the CEP to organize presidential and legislative elections simultaneously. Should it fail to do so, the CEP will go down in history as being responsible for all the woes that might befall the Haitian people.

PANPRA Gives Opinion

FL2804132489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] More reaction from the political class: For his part, Serges Gilles of PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] thinks that if the government wants to render credible its declared desire to lead the country toward democracy and to elections worthy of the name, Prosper Avril must obligatorily and without delay see to it that the most dangerous of the Duvalierists are no longer in a position to inflict any damage; indemnify and put back in a position to operate Radio Haiti-Inter, Radio Antilles Internationales, and Radio Metropole; and set up an emergency social and economic program with a view to satisfying the most pressing needs of the Haitian people, including the soldiers.

[He must also], once the electoral calendar has been established by the Provisional Election Council [CEP], modify the cabinet with a view to restoring confidence to the civilian society, (?on the basis of) a program of government of transparent opening, and of clear deadlines.

Prosper Avril will thus have the opportunity to go down in the history of his country favorably—stresses Serges Gilles—despite his unpopularity today. The nation will be forever grateful to him for this act of courage and public wholesomeness. In the last analysis, today the ball is in the court of Prosper Avril, who has emerged all the greater from his recent tribulations, especially because of the way he behaved immediately following the events—and this remains true even though many people believe that a big part of the coup d'etat might have been staged.

For its part, the responsible democratic opposition played its part correctly and courageously by giving Avril critical support—particularly during the difficult moments he has just gone through—and by refusing to take the path of adventurism and support an unjustified coup d'etat at such a juncture, where any new such adventure only distances further the chances for democracy.

Serges Gilles wonders where the limits of this critical support lie.

PANPRA thinks that any civilian president put into power by any one sector—or even several sectors—of the Army and not elected in a democratic election with a great deal of popular participation will obligatorily suffer the same fate as Leslie Manigat. For its part, PANPRA is working at setting in place the conditions favorable to such an election. This is PANPRA's objective, and it is in view of this objective that PANPRA is beginning to organize its first national congress, to be held next 29 September through 1 October.

In order to build democracy, the country must have confidence in the institutions—the Army, the CEP, the political parties, the unions, and the peasants organizations.

This PANPRA press release concludes: On the eve of 1 May, the workers festival, Panpra expresses its solidarity with the working class in its struggle for its rights and for better working conditions.

Hinche City Hall Closed; Guarded Militarily

FL2804142689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] In Hinche, we have learned, that the City Hall is still closed, and it is is being guarded militarily following a fuss that broke out in City Hall.

The communal magistrate, mayor, decided to fire the chief of personnel. This led to discontent on the part of all personnel, and they decided to shut down City Hall, while demanding the resignation of the magistrate.

Well, Hinche City Hall is still shut down and still being guarded militarily.

Vigilance Brigade Members Arrested in Cite Soleil

FL2804135089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] There is continued protest following the arrest of 23 members of vigilance brigades in Cite Soleil. The police arrested these 23 vigilance brigade members in the Boston and Linthau sections of Cite Soleil on Tuesday night [25 April]. An officer at the Cite Soleil police outpost whom we contacted on the phone said the people arrested were carrying pointed iron bars, picks, and machetes, and that these things are at the police outpost. According to the policeman, the vigilance brigades are responsible for a number of crimes that have occurred in the Cite Soleil. The policeman added that the arrested people are going to be transferred to the police district at Delmas 33, where they have now put the police company that used to be known as Fort Dimanche.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] What happened is that thieves are overrunning the area. [passage omitted] They even killed people inside the boutique. [passage omitted] So we, for our own security, formed a vigilance brigade, and the police post knows that we formed a vigilance brigade that keeps watch for thieves every night in the area. Last night they came, just before dawn, when they knew we were watching for thieves. [passage omitted] A (?squad) came and arrested everyone they could lay their hands on in the neighborhood. [passage omitted] They pulled weapons on them and arrested them. [passage omitted] They even fired off a couple of shots.

[Reporter] Was it the police, or men from the tactical unit?

[Unidentified Speaker] The police! [end recording]

Those were statements from residents of Cite Soleil, who think what is being done now is a way to prevent them from protecting themselves against the acts of banditry being committed in Cite Soleil. The Cite Soleil people say it is because the thieves operate at night and don't let them catch a breath, stealing everything they own and raping their children and their wives, that they decided to form vigilance brigades to watch for criminals.

Relatives of the people arrested who came to Radio Soleil reported that the people arrested have already been beaten. According to the policeman from the Cite Soleil police outpost, the people were arrested in order that an investigation could be conducted.

The Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil [KASS] protests these arrests and demand the release of these 23 members of vigilance brigades.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Speaker] KASS thinks that whenever there is no security somewhere, whenever the police don't do their job, it is the right and duty of the population to patriotically rise up and set up a vigilance brigade to stand watch over its neighborhood. [passage omitted]

When, for example, the thieves are taken to the police, the police let them go. Thus, it is because the police don't do their job that people (?form the brigade). That is why we are truly against the arrests made this morning.

[Reporter] You just told me nine people were arrested in the Boston section alone. Can you identify the people arrested?

[Man] We have many of their names: Mainfort Alexis, Brun Chery, Berthony Henry, Eltima Remy, Claudie Avril, Claude Innocent, and several others—because like we said, it wasn't just in the Boston section. There are other people whom we have not identified, whom they arrested, whom we haven't seen since we woke up this morning. Also, many among the population have been obliged to flee into hiding, because they don't know whether or not the police are going to come back after them. [end recording]

The arrests in Cite Soleil once again bring to the forefront the problem of the lack of security, which forces citizens to take a number of measures in order to defend themselves. These arrests (?highlight) the problem of the government's responsibility to ensure the security of people's lives and property. As for the courts, they practically exist in name only.

We also remind listeners that on the eve of the November 1987 elections, the authorities back then—more precisely, the Interior Minister [Williams Regala]—had decided to forbid the activities of the vigilance brigades, which had decided that they were going to protect the population from the actions of bandits. The vigilance brigades had to disband, and acts of banditry spread over Port-au-Prince before culminating in the massacre of 29 November 1987.

AEP Contradicts Education Minister's Information

FL2804133689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Port-au-Prince Teachers Association [AEP] is asking the Ministry of Education to shoulder its responsibilities vis-a-vis the students of the Dessalines Barracks school. The students of the Barracks school have not been able to attend class since the recent clash between the Presidential Guard and Dessalines Barracks soldiers.

The minister of education says he has nothing to do with any of this, and claims he is not involved in this matter.

The AEP, through its spokesman Andre L. Joseph, the association's general coordinator, has reacted, saying it thinks it is the duty of the minister of education, the nation's highest educational authority, to examine this problem. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Joseph] [Passage omitted] We have found that the school was indeed founded in 1952 under Paul Eugene Magloire for the children of the enlisted men of the Dessalines Barracks and the National Palace. And indeed, from 1952 to 1958 it was the National Palace that paid this school's teachers. However, as of 1958, the teachers were worried about pensions and about when they wouldn't have a job, because it probably wasn't something regular. They were probably paid in cash, in envelopes. Therefore, the teachers talked to the Education Ministry back then, so as to come under the responsibility of that ministry. And indeed, since 1958 those teachers are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. That is, the ministry has the right to appoint them, fire them, retire them, and so forth.

[Reporter] Thus, it is the Ministry of Education that pays these teachers?

[Joseph] Yes. It not only pays them but also appoints them, fires them, and retires them, and the ministry supervises the school directly.

We are giving these facts just to give them. However, we will never understand how the Ministry of National Education is supposed to govern all the different schools in Haiti. Even if the schools were indeed paid for by the General Headquarters, how could the minister wash his hands of it and refuse to get involved? [passage omitted]

I point out to everyone that the problem is not just a problem of the children of the enlisted men of the Dessalines Barracks. Now, even if it were, I think it would be a serious problem—for I don't think anyone wants to punish the children of the enlisted men of the barracks because of what happened. However, this is not even the case, because the Dessalines Barracks school took the children of all enlisted men, and it also took other children as well—children of people who are not soldiers.

[Reporter] Do you know how many children attend that school, more or less?

[Joseph] It has 1091 students, so as you can see, it is not a minor problem. There are 1091 children involved. [passage omitted] Before envisioning big things, we expect the ministry to shoulder its responsibility regarding smaller things, like these.

[Reporter] Precisely, as AEP general coordinator, how do you feel about the case of the Carrefour communal schools, where today the students are having to go ask the Ministry of Interior, rather than the Ministry of Education, to intervene on their behalf?

[Joseph] Well, precisely, all these things fall into that same attitude of refusing to take action. Perhaps the ministry is no longer called the Ministry of National Education. Perhaps it now has some other name? But if it is the Ministry of National Education.... [changes thought] Besides, if any other government or private institution has been given the right.... [changes thought] We assume that it is the Ministry of Education that is in charge of supervising, following up, any school that sets up in the country! [passage omitted] If there is an agency higher than the Ministry of Education that is exercising this control, let them inform us, and then we will know to address ourselves to this other agency! So, that's how things are. [end recording]

MIDH Holds Consultative Council Meeting

FL2704183189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Many prominent figures from political circles, businessmen, and high-ranking members of the Haitian Administration participated last Saturday in the first meeting of the consultative council of the MIDH—which is Marc Louis Bazin's Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti—at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel.

In a speech made to open the meeting, Mr Bazin said that although the members of the group had very diverse interests and professional activities, they all shared the desire to participate in the collective effort necessary to carry Haiti, which is troubled and turbulent, [through this crisis], (?a task the Haitian people undertook long ago).

After painting a picture of (?how effectively this has been done), Mr Bazin said, and we quote: The Haitian people at present, more than ever, need to know what is going on in Haiti, and what kind of a society we intend to propose to the Haitian people, end quote.

Marc Bazin said the MIDH's response is a democracy in l'Haitenne, an autochthonous democracy effective enough to permit an increase in the nation's production and income, generous enough to redress the inequalities—particularly the social inequalities—that exist in Haiti, and orderly enough to avoid the country's falling into anarchy. Mr Bazin said that such a Haitian democracy could have four pillars: deconcentration, participation, association, and decentralization.

Bazin said the MIDH was proposing five things: First, all children of school age should be taught to read and write between now and the year 2000. [sentence as heard]

Second, all Haitians should be able to eat when they are hungry.

Third, proper health care establishments that would be available to all Haitians should be set up in the country—health care establishments, hospitals, not too far away, not more than 1 km or so away from where the population lives.

Fourth, every Haitian should have available to him proper drinking water not more than 200 meters or so from the peasants' homes or the homes of all Haitians in general.

Fifth, each Haitian should have a place to sleep and a job that allows him to meet his obligations.

After saluting the installation of the new election council, which Mr Bazin said is made up of responsible citizens, Mr Bazin said, and we quote: The Haitian people must be given the floor. Only democratic elections can give a government legitimacy and provide a minimal consensus, end quote.

Without (?such a consensus) institutional stability cannot be guaranteed here in Haiti, MIDH President Bazin said.

We remind listeners that this meeting of the MIDH's consultative council, was held at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel last Saturday [22 April].

Money Changers Association Holds News Conference
FL2804141989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] In the presence of some 100 money changers—the men who sell or change U.S. currency—the members of the National Association of Haitian Money Changers [Association Nationale des Cambistes Haitiens], ANCH, held a news conference at around 1000 yesterday at the headquarters of the metropolitan area drivers union, on Rue des Miracles. The news conference was held for the purpose of defending their interests, which the money changers claim are being harmed by the decree issued by the Haitian military government on 31 January 1989.

This decree makes an important change in the articles of the commercial code that have to do with money changers. This measure adopted by the government represents a U.S. Government economic plan, through the International Monetary Fund [IMF], said Mr (Celine Moncles), the ANCH's vice president.

Mr (Moncles) said that the IMF's policy certainly did ressemble a policy of force! He added the IMF's policy never yielded any results.

Mr (Moncles) said, further, that this policy always gave rise to social conflict, that this was what always happened in other countries, such as in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, where many people have always died, and several thousand people have been hurt in these conflicts.

(Moncles) said that the policy set forth in this decree forces the Haitian government to take a number of measures against the nation's children and in favor of big merchants living both inside and outside Haiti.

Speaking of the daily obligations people have to meet, such as supporting their children and paying for housing and for school and so forth, the money changers could agree to get off the streets if the Haitian military government could find jobs for them, said (Moncles).

That is what the ANCH's secretary general [title as heard] thinks. That is what he said in the name of all his colleagues, during this news conference held yesterday morning at the drivers' union headquarters on Rue des Miracles.

Justice Ministry Summons Court Personnel
FL2804122589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Summoned by Justice Minister Augustin Ceme, 38 doyens and examining magistrates from 15 jurisdictions in Haiti met at the Justice Ministry yesterday morning. The meeting was held with a view to better organize the civil courts and the offices of the examining magistrates throughout Haiti, especially regarding discipline. Another purpose of the meeting was to achieve closer collaboration among Haiti's different Justice Department institutions.

This meeting falls within the framework of the measures that the Justice Ministry authorities have envisioned with a view to arriving as quickly as possible at a healthy and well-balanced administration of justice in Haiti, as Lieutenant General Avril put it in his letter of 13 March 1989.

It is important, said the justice minister, to change the way the courts operate in Haiti, to put an end to this business of routineness and of slowness, which is the way the court system in Haiti has been operating for a long time—at a snail's pace.

Thus the minister asks that the Justice Department institutions soon be in a position to meet the Haitian people's demands: proper justice, peace, and social harmony.

This meeting was held at the Justice Ministry yesterday morning.

Drug Raid in Ouanaminthe; Military Said Involved
FL2804135989 Port-au-Prince Radio National in Creole 1300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] We will now hear from the Fort Liberte area in northeastern Haiti. We have learned that the police effected a roundup in connection with drugs Tuesday night in Ouanaminthe. Our correspondent Jocelyn Dorsaint is going to give us details of this roundup, as well as other news.

[Dorsaint—live or recorded] Tuesday night a man named (Rony Poisson) was caught in Ouanaminthe with drugs and a revolver in his possession. There was much shooting in the air and much tear gas used on this occasion, to get (Rony Poisson) to open the door of his house and come out. He had run into his house to hide.

All the shooting caused a big panic in Ouanaminthe.

When (Poisson) saw that the police were really truly ready to blow the house to bits, he had the door to the house opened. The police and the justice of the peace entered and found (Poisson) under a big mattress. Even then, it was very difficult to get him to come out from under the mattress, because he pulled a weapon on them.

The police found, in (Poisson's) house, a good amount of marijuana, a revolver, and much jewelry. An escort of many soldiers took him to the barracks.

There were many other arrests made that same day in connection with this matter of drugs, and for that reason, many men and women did not sleep at home that night. Many fled.

We were told that even many soldiers are involved in this matter of drugs. We are going to come back to this later, for the police are continuing to investigate this matter. They are also continuing to effect searches, to see if they can find any other revolvers. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Government Announces Price Hikes on Foods

FL2704213189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1842 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 27, CANA—The Jamaican Government has announced price hikes of between 5 and 50 per cent on a number of basic food items as the new Michael Manley administration moved to slash more than J200 million dollars (one J dollar-18 U.S. cents) in subsidies.

Increases became effective Thursday following Wednesday night's announcement in parliament by the industry and commerce minister, Claude Clarke.

Clarke announced hikes on bread, flour, rice, cornmeal, chicken, dried salted fish and condensed milk—most of which are considered staples of the Jamaican poor. The biggest jump was with dried salted fish (cod), which went up 50 per cent to J7.95 dollars per pound. Imported mostly from Canada, dried and salted fish cooked with the ackee, a fruit eaten mostly by Jamaicans, is considered the island's national dish.

Once considered the food of the poor, rising price for fish has been pushing it out of their reach while it has in recent years achieved new status on the tables of the "well-to-do" because of its promotion as a culinary delicacy.

Chicken, a relatively cheap form of protein, has gone up 17 per cent to J5.50 dollars per pound, while bread moved up 16 per cent to J3.96 dollars for a two pound loaf. Flour rose 31 per cent to 98 cents a pound, while rice, which Jamaicans eat in significant quantities, moved up five per cent.

Manley announced this week that the increases were coming as the government chopped up to J200 million dollars in subsidies, channelled through the government's Jamaica Commodity Trading Company (JCTC), this fiscal year. The eventual plan was to wipe out a nearly J400 million dollar deficit by the bulk-purchasing company "over a phased period", according to Clarke.

Manley has asked a cabinet committee to work out a plan to channel subsidies directly to the neediest, instead of the current arrangement from which everybody benefits.

In a Sunday night television broadcast, Manley warned of the impending austerity and "tight" budget because of a pre-election spending spree by the former Edward Seaga administration, which he said had pushed the country's public sector deficit for the last financial year to 15 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) instead of the nine per cent agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "During the next fiscal year (from April 1), we have a clear duty to attempt to remedy this situation," Manley said.

Ironically, Seaga, who started to deregulate the Jamaican economy which he inherited from Manley in 1980 and later put the country through three years of austerity, is being showered with blame for the measures the new government has to implement. Several local producers have been calling for increases, but these were shelved with the pending general election last February.

Further, Clarke criticised Seaga in parliament for not following through on his price deregulation programme when in 1986 the former government plowed money from savings on the oil bill into subsidies.

In some cases the retail prices of goods were lowered after Jamaica gained a windfall for the oil market crash. "...The local prices of these essential food items have remained at the May 1986 levels as relevant raw materials and finished products were being increasingly subsidized from the JCTC's budget, thus eroding the company's financial position to the point of creating an intolerable budgetary gap of J395 million dollars," Clarke said. The upshot was that Jamaica was subsidizing foreign producers, the minister said.

Manley's move to chop subsidies and deal with the government deficit has won the endorsement of the private sector, though spokesmen would prefer the measures to go much further. There has at the same time been no open hostility by ordinary consumers. Delroy Lindsay, the executive director of the Umbrella Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, said that while the price hikes would impact on living standards, they were "absolutely critical" to the long-term development of industries.

"What we want in the private sector is to move to a situation where there are no price controls, and where the main market determinant is competition and market forces," Lindsay said.

Media vox populi after Manley's Sunday night announcement that the hikes were coming were sympathetic to the government. [sentence as received] "I am in sympathy with the prime minister," a school teacher in Jackson told the GLEANER newspaper. "...all this is due to the mismanagement of the previous government. We were led to believe that the economy was a bed of roses."

Government Proposes Debt Reduction to Creditors

PA2704152289 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] One of the Mexican Government's proposals presented to creditor banks is a 55-percent reduction in the foreign debt and a substantial decrease in interest charges. The Mexican delegation, currently in New York to negotiate with the creditor banks' advisory committee, presented four options to reduce the national foreign debt.

A second proposal is to exchange the Mexican debt for bonds, according to the debt's nominal value and with a 4-percent interest rate instead of the current one, which is between 10 and 11 percent. A third proposal includes the capitalization of the debt interest and granting new credits to our country.

Mexico also proposed that old debts be changed to their value on the over-the-counter market, at a rate of $0.45 per dollar. New York bank representatives believe that if our country could achieve an overall renegotiation of the foreign debt, Mexico could save $29 billion over the next 4 years.

Central Bank Reports Sharp Drop in Reserves

PA2804001789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0548 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Apr (AFP)—Mexico's international reserves dropped sharply from 11.4 billion [currency not specified] in late 1987 to 6.588 billion by 31 December 1988, the Central Bank of Mexico reported today.

"The extraordinary accumulation of reserves in 1987 was used for programs to counter inflation in 1988, amid very adverse international circumstances in terms of trade, amortization, and foreign debt payments," the bank stated in its annual report.

"The external factors that affected Mexico's economy in 1988 were higher interest rates, the nonavailability of foreign financing, and the country's unfavorable trade terms."

The unfavorable trade terms were caused by "a reduction in the price of oil and an increase in the importation of grains and other goods," the report added.

The sectors that grew were those linked with exports, such as the automotive, steel, chemical, and synthetic fibers industries. Sales in these areas represented 40, 13, 30, and 20 [figures as received] percent of total production, respectively.

The Bank of Mexico added that private investments increased by 10.1 percent in 1988, while nonoil exports increased by 16.0 percent compared to last year.

Manufacturing exports increased by 17.2 percent, 42 percent more than in 1982. [sentence as received] Manufacturing exports totaled 56.2 percent of total exports.

The net foreign debt interest paid abroad rose from 6.209 billion to 6.579 billion, resulting in a 2.901 billion balance of payments deficit.

Mexico currently seeks, through the economic stability and growth pact, "to speed up the transition toward a new stage of sustained economic growth, without the resulting spiraling price hikes," the report concluded.

El Salvador

Commander Roca Rejects ARENA Amnesty Offer

PA2704190689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Report on interview with Commander Roberto Roca, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command [FMLN], date and place not given; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Radio Venceremos has interviewed Commander Roberto Roca, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command. The first question was on the alleged amnesty that the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government would issue and the proposal that ARENA, through Roberto D'Aubuisson, made to the FMLN. Regarding this alleged amnesty, Commander Roberto Roca said the following:

[Roca] "As for the amnesty D'Aubuisson mentioned, it is nothing more than the revival of something that has already been soundly defeated. This proposal, which is completely out of touch with the current balance of forces, essentially—we surmise this from his statements—reflects the plans of the new ARENA government, which will be imposed on 1 June, to intensify the war.

"The Salvadoran people are ready to face the warmongering maneuvers of the true representative of the ARENA deaths squads, who is now trying to create a terrorist state through new repressive actions. However, since ARENA won the March election farce, the Salvadoran people are becoming increasingly aware of the need to face such repressive actions.

"ARENA has nothing new to offer; it is offering old and failed tactics in the face of a new situation in the country, that is, a signficant change in the balance of forces favorable to the FMLN and the great majority of the people. This will undoubtedly encourage a struggle as soon as the new ARENA government is installed.

"D'Aubuisson and ARENA will scare nobody with plans that are completely detached from a genuine willingness to achieve peace. The FMLN has presented a prudent peace proposal based on an objective analysis of the current balance of forces.

"It is important for the Salvadoran people to realize that the degree of unity reached to face ARENA's plans will be the key to countering the repression that the Armed Forces and ARENA are already promoting."

Further in the interview, Commander Roberto Roca touched on the announcement on the creation of an intelligence office to try to halt the people's struggle and such announcements as the drafting of an antiterrorist law, in other words an entire campaign of psychological war against the people's movement. Regarding the objectives of this campaign, Commander Roca said the following:

[Roca] "As I said in the previous response, the objective of ARENA and particularly Vice President-elect Merino—who is promoting the attempt to create such an office—is to apply failed tactics to new situations. If there is something that is different in the current Salvadoran political arena, it is that there is an attempt by the reactionary and obscurantist forces in our country to make all the people conspire against themselves. That is an objective that will fail. We remember that in the past, in their desperation the Armed Forces established a number of telephone numbers that citizens could call to inform on citizens who had progressive opinions or who were guerrillas. This totally failed. It became an Armed Forces office of disinformation.

"The same fate unquestionably awaits that office under discussion by Merino and other ARENA officials. These tricks cannot successfully halt our people's desire for freedom. Our people are preparing to wage united and important struggles on all fronts against the new ARENA regime which, because of the kinds of contradictions already apparent and its not very intelligent proposed options, is already showing its inability to face the current Salvadoran situation. That is my answer to the question."

In the past few days, ARENA spokesmen have said that the alleged change in military strategy will defeat the FMLN. Regarding ARENA's alleged change in strategy, Commander Roberto Roca said the following:

[Roca] "In El Salvador, the U.S. strategists and Salvadoran Air Force commanders have used countless strategies, all of which have been totally defeated by the FMLN. What ARENA is now proposing is virtually nothing new. From a military standpoint, the North Americans have used El Salvador as a testing ground for all their counterinsurgency ideas and on no occasion have they been successful. ARENA is now trying to modify a failed strategy. In this sense, what we should expect from that strategy and what is being sought at this time is the creation of conditions that would serve as a propaganda and psychological backdrop to justify an increase in repression against the civic movement of the Salvadoran masses. We have seen how the attacks on the university, trade union headquarters, and humanitarian organizations, as well as the arrest of trade union leaders are actually the focus of this repressive campaign. They are trying to silence the people's just demands.

"Nevertheless, as a reply to that repressive escalation, which is being carried out even before the ARENA government takes office, there is an ever increasing combativeness on the part of people's organizations to defeat that repressive escalation. Despite all the efforts by the government and the ARENA members to prevent

a huge 1 May rally, throughout the entire month of May and beginning on 1 May, the people's movement and the revolutionary and guerrilla movement will certainly wage a number of important battles that will increasingly make clear that the new tactics that ARENA might try to use to change the balance of forces will fail. The change in the balance of forces has already been secured by the FMLN. What actually exists now is a desperate attempt to conceal that situation and to try to hinder that balance of forces, which has already been won and which is demanding a realistic solution to achieve peace. Therefore, ARENA's objective will not in any way be successful."

The FMLN has said that it will confront the weakest government in history. Regarding this, we asked Commander Roca about the FMLN's strategy and his call to the people to confront this ARENA strategy:

[Roca] "The strategy we have been applying is based on all the people joining the war in various ways. This is our response to the fact that the traditionally dominant forces in El Salvador—whether the oligarchy or the U.S. Government—offer no feasible political, economic, or social solutions for the country's crisis. Therefore, the FMLN has to continue its strategy with fresh impetus derived from the fact that its accumulation of forces is consistent with the extensive experience gathered during the last 10 years of war. With this new impetus, the FMLN will confront, under improved conditions and with stronger forces, this final attempt to preserve a regime already obsolete—historically and practically speaking. ARENA has no true chance of establishing a new strategy or new tactics to cope with the people's determination. ARENA is only the sad and desperate product of an already failed strategy. This is what can be surmised from all the contradictions of the ARENA spokesmen during the past days and weeks, when some of them proposed something and others then contradict that and propose something else. These contradictions within the enemy indicate the great confusion prevailing in the Salvadoran counterrevolutionary forces. These great internal contradictions characterize the Cristiani regime.

"The FMLN will fight the enemy forces with greater strength. The FMLN will combat with greater unity the enemy's deep divisions. With new ideas and realistic proposals, the FMLN will combat foolish, unrealistic proposals that attempt to deceive our people, despite their level of political maturity. The people now have the final word. The people's hour has come. The FMLN is the people's vanguard. Victory is now nearer and more certain than ever."

FMLN Radio Urges ARENA Mayors To Resign

PA2804010589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0027 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Attention mayors: The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] has announced the creation of informer networks [redes de orejas], called antiterrorist cells. ARENA mayors throughout the country are part of this plan. We will not allow the creation of this paramilitary system, which has resulted in 70,000 dead Salvadorans in the past. We call on the mayors to resign immediately, before these networks are created. We are against these networks and will take strong actions against them to protect the population from the repressive actions ARENA will implement on 1 June. ARENA mayors: Resign immediately.

FMLN Reports 24-27 Apr Military Actions

PA2804043489

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 27 April carries an approximately 5-minute report on recent military actions. The report begins by noting that on 24 and 25 April, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] inflicted seven casualties on Army troops in several ambushes and clashes in El Cortijo de Canitas, Plan de Horno, and Francisco Morazan, all in Chalatenango Department. The station also reports that on 26 April, the FMLN attacked Cayahuanca Battalion in Canitas, where 12 casualties were inflicted. In another part of the report, the Venceremos announcer adds that San Salvador urban commando groups confirmed sabotage actions against power poles and telephone exchange boxes. The report adds that on 26 April, the FMLN "engaged in violent clashes" in San Jose Guayabal, inflicting four casualties on Relampago Battalion. A report from Usulutan Department states that contact bombs were detonated in San Lorenzo and San Agustin, while a 27 April clash in Metapan, Santa Ana Department, resulted in four Army casualties.

Paratroopers Capture 23 Guerrillas in San Miguel

PA2804041489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas on news conference by Air Force Major Rene Rodriguez Hurtado, Paratroopers Battalion commander, with unidentified reporters at the Air Force central base on 26 April]

[Text] [Rivas] A total of 23 guerrillas were presented today at the Salvadoran Air Force central base. The rebels were captured yesterday in northern San Miguel Department, where six rebels were killed in recent skirmishes.

The Air Force operation in which the rebels were captured occurred at 0500 in San Sebastian, northern San Miguel. Twenty rifles, ammunition, and some musical instruments were seized, Paratroopers Battalion Commander Major Rene Rodriguez Hurtado reported. He added that six rebels were killed during the clash:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The Salvadoran Air Force Intelligence Department carried out an operation to find the specific site where Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] criminal terrorists were hiding. The

Air Force began a search operation, and after detecting the terrorist criminals, we sent a small 24-member patrol of paratroopers. When the rebels saw our 24-member patrol, they fled the area, as they usually do. I hereby want to urge rebel leaders not to abandon their men as they just did; they have abandoned these terrorist criminals, which is why they were captured.

[Reporter] Were any commanders captured?

[Rodriguez] No commanders were captured; they fled the area, as usual. [end recording]

[Rivas] Among other things, Maj Rodriguez Hurtado rejected the recent charges by various labor unions who blame the Army for the deaths of some activists and the capture of other labor leaders:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] The campaign to discredit the Air Force—the Armed Forces in general and particularly its commander, General Bustillo—is obvious. I think there have been purges here. I am not wrong. We have [words indistinct] and are struggling for peace. We are giving lectures to soldiers, the Red Cross International [words indistinct] and are giving lectures to soldiers on human rights. We are conscious of that. Soldiers are no longer people who just attended fourth grade or second grade at elementary school. Many of them are high school graduates. In sum: First, there is a discredit campaign, which I just mentioned; second, the guerrillas themselves are carrying out purges and are trying to blame it on Gen Bustillo. [end recording]

[Rivas] No questions were allowed during the presentation of the captured guerrillas. However, according to military sources, some of the captured men were deceived, and others were forced by the rebels to take up arms. This has been one of the harshest blows by the Air Force against the guerrillas in northern San Miguel Department in the past few days. Search operations will continue in the area. The captured men will be sent to the corresponding courts [words indistinct].

Col Ochoa Interviewed on Talks With FMLN

PA2704142589 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Unattributed report on interview with Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, vice president of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, today said Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] is willing to negotiate with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] provided the FMLN shows its good intentions, but that the Armed Forces will not suspend their military actions. This statement is consistent with ARENA's national peace and freedom proposal.

The dialogue can take place even if there are no negotiations, Ochoa said.

[Ochoa] "We have been trying to solve the war problem through what we have called the civilized option, through the use of reason. We are not neglecting the military aspect. The Armed Forces will continue to do its duty, making whatever changes need to be made within the context of the purely military problem. We have been very clear regarding talks with the FMLN. We have said we want to measure the degree of the FMLN's good intentions. We want to see to what extent the FMLN is prepared to stop the wave of violence to show its good intentions to the people and to the new government, which is what 54 percent of the people want. This percentage would have been higher had there been more [words indistinct].

"We believe the FMLN must also show it wants peace. The FMLN should not demand that the government fulfill its part of the commitment while they provoke unrest by stirring up the masses through front organizations that provoke disorders; they have become criminals. We also believe the FMLN must understand that not only one of the parties must show goodwill. The FMLN must halt the wave of terrorism, assassinations, destruction, and criminal actions that the people have been suffering for several years.

"In this regard, our position has always been very clear. We believe the amnesty is part of the national proposal for peace and freedom. We have learned [words indistinct] are already saying they will not take part in the amnesty. Moreover, Mr Mario Aguinada Carranza [words indistinct], an FMLN member and a well-known Marxist, clearly said all these FMLN actions are to attain power [words indistinct]. We know the FMLN position very well. They are Marxists who want to attain power through weapons and terrorism and then impose a totalitarian Marxist system. However, I think that will not be possible because the people do not want a Marxist regime. Nevertheless, we believe that between pluralism and [words indistinct] a general amnesty. It is necessary to state that by carrying out actions against the people and government institutions, the rebels are outlaws. Therefore, we are willing to hold talk as often as necessary. However, [words indistinct] are talking about negotiations. We believe we can hold talks, but we cannot negotiate just because a hostile, Marxist group wants to negotiate. We are willing to give them the necessary political space so they can join the democratic process and civilian life. They should struggle to attain power through votes and not through violence."

Referring to the Central American situation, Ochoa said the Sandinists should stop giving aid to the FMLN guerrillas if they want the contras to stop their struggle in Nicaragua. The Central American presidents, who will soon be meeting in Honduras, should create mechanisms to attain peace in the area, Ochoa Perez said. He also denied that the U.S. Government is exerting pressure on

the new government that will be headed by Alfredo Cristiani to negotiate with the guerrillas. Those rumors are maneuvers to damage the good relations between the two countries, he said.

[Ochoa] "[Words indistinct] with the Sandinists because the Sandinists are among those supporting the FMLN. They want to dismantle the contras but want the FMLN to continue their attacks on the people. We believe there have to be some changes regarding the agreements made at Tesoro Beach. We also believe that if peace is going to be attained by dismantling the contras, [words indistinct]. Then what will happen? The Sandinists, as Marxists, cannot tell us right now whether or not they will fulfill the agreements. We need to reach a comprehensive agreement in the area so Nicaragua, as well as El Salvador, will attain peace and so there will be peace in the entire region. We know perfectly well that the Sandinists, as Marxists, are expansionists.

"However, there they are, in Nicaragua [words indistinct] change in Nicaragua through the democratic way. [Words indistinct] we also believe that we must take advantage of the presidential summit to be held in Honduras to bring peace to El Salvador. [Words indistinct] not simply by disarming the contras and allowing the FMLN to do as it pleases in this country. I think that an effort must be made [words indistinct]. However, we feel that [words indistinct] armed forces that [words indistinct] the mission they have.

[Reporter] "If ARENA grants an amnesty, does this mean that the FMLN will lay down its weapons?

[Ochoa] "We have been very (?broadminded). We have been [words indistinct] I said it [words indistinct]. We have said: Come on, join the process. Turn in your weapons to the Sandinists [words indistinct] also on the part of the contras. They should give the weapons to a UN commission instead of the Sandinists [words indistinct]. I do not know exactly what treatment will be given to the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua. But here we have demonstrated our goodwill and have issued a call to all these FMLN pseudo-commanders asking them to join the country's political and civilian life."

Analyzing the current violent situation, Ochoa said that the FMLN does not believe it will win the war militarily, and he referred to violent acts, describing them as terrorist actions aimed at pressuring the new government to establish talks for a solution to the conflict.

Guatemala

Cerezo Speaks on Contras, U.S. Relations

PA2704141189 Guatemala City CRONICA in Spanish 21 Apr 89 p 46

[Interview with President Vinicio Cerezo by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] We can begin by talking about the summary document in the Oliver North case, in which North is implicated in an operation to support the contras.

[Cerezo] Well look, that document includes various facts. It mixes reports from State Department officials that cite specific facts with opinions and ideas about what should be done in Central America to try to win support for U.S. policy.

[Reporter] But, did you or did you not offer [to help the contras]?

[Cerezo] The fact is that there was never a serious proposal in the sense that if we supported the contras there would be a counter-offer of military aid or increased economic aid. It would have been very intelligent on our part to accept it. We are not going to make a "one hand washes the other" agreement with the Americans because that would disregard U.S. policy. Every agreement with them will be published in some manner or made public in some official document.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, at that time you publicly asked for an increase in military aid.

[Cerezo] We said that our number one priority was economic aid and that what we needed was support. Although we could have asked for more, we would not do so because the country should develop itself with a high degree of independence and autonomy. Regarding military aid, it was meant more as a "message" to the officers and the Army. A positive message in the sense that it is appropriate for the Army to support democracy. Seven million [currency not specified] is not a considerable amount to sell Guatemala's foreign policy. A new helicopter costs that much.

[Reporter] At the beginning of your term, statements made by [former Defense Minister] General Jaime Hernandez Mendez led to the questioning of your policy of active neutrality.

[Cerezo] There was some unrest, but when those statements were made Honduras and Nicaragua were almost ready for a confrontation and there could have been a generalized war. Unquestionably, if they had attacked or invaded us... I myself made a statement confirming that there was a possibility that that active neutrality policy might be put aside.

[Reporter] Was it General Hector Alejandro Gramajo's appointment as defense minister that ended this climate of unrest in the Army?

[Cerezo] Look, the doubts began to disappear during Gen Hernandez' time in office. Gen Gramajo's appointment was foreseen because I appointed the defense minister and the chief of staff at the same time and indicated that the latter would succeed the defense minister when Gen Hernandez retired. That gave the Army peace of mind. Now it is no longer necessary to pre-appoint successors.

[Reporter] Regarding [chief of staff] General Cesar Augusto Caceres, it seems that there was never progress in that investigation.

[Cerezo] I will tell you everything. The investigation did make progress but there was never any documented proof. However, there were bills of lading for a certain amount of supplies that were subsequently used in Guatemala. Supposedly, the planes that were bringing these supplies could take some of that. [sentence as published] Gen Caceres said he never had any orders to check the documents. They would unload the packages in Guatemala and the U.S. plane that delivered the merchandise would continue its flight. We never received any weapons. We received boots, uniforms... those types of things.

[Reporter] Let us look at the current situation. In May the U.S. Congress will discuss military aid for the next fiscal year.

[Cerezo] An international campaign is under way to state that the human rights situation has not improved in Guatemala and that certain conditions should be placed on military aid. However, the truth is that this is the U.S. problem. I am going to talk to you frankly: The United States is running the risk of becoming at odds with an essential democratic ally in Central America because it ignores our situation and trusts its traditional sources. And all this for $9 million. What will happen to us for that? It costs us more to keep going to the United States to convince U.S. officials that things are changing than what we will receive. However, we are going to fulfill our duty by going there. But if they insist on placing conditions on us, this could reach a point where we will not be able to use U.S. aid.

[Reporter] Continuing on this topic, what is the status of the M-16 purchase?

[Cerezo] The U.S. Congress was already informed that this was a completely legal action on our part and that we already met all the requirements. It seems that Congress was pleased with the explanation it received from the State Department. We have just paid for those rifles and they are in the process of being delivered to the troops.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about a possible purchase of UH-1H helicopters?

[Cerezo] Look, we requested those a few years ago. We renewed this request for three new UH helicopters recently, but the truth is that is advancing very slowly. We would like to purchase them with U.S. aid because we would get a long-term credit for them. I must add that no U.S. military aid is a gift. Even the helicopters used to transfer food to areas where there are displaced people have cost us dearly.

President Cerezo Discusses Democracy, Media

PA2804024389 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0515 GMT 24 Apr 89

["Message" from President Vinicio Cerezo broadcast during the "Today's Most Important News" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear Guatemalan people: I have come here to talk to you about the people's sovereignty.

You elected me as your president in 1985 and I have always felt that my responsibility is to carry out my tasks and work with the Guatemalan people always in mind.

I have been especially concerned with maintaining the trust the Guatemalan people have in me. When I became president of Guatemala, I promised to always tell the truth and never lie to the people. I will never lie. I will always tell the truth because I believe that above all a political leader owes his life, prestige, work, and attitude to the people who elected him.

You are the rulers of this country. You are the ones who lead the government. In about 1 and ½ years, you will determine whether I fulfilled my duty or not. You will determine whether the party that supported me made the right decision and whether its platform was correct. You will determine whether we began solving the problems you were facing a few years ago, whether we have introduced any changes, and whether it is worthwhile to continue supporting us or to give your support to another political party.

That is democracy. Democracy is what I am basically discussing with you today: The people have the last word. Neither political leaders, pressure groups, nor organizations have the last word. The Guatemalan people are the sovereign ruler and that is why today I want to talk to you about public opinion.

I am deeply concerned about what has been happening lately with all the news reports, public opinion, and the way in which the media, especially the press, have been handling some events.

I must admit that most radio newscasts and the most important television newscasts are fulfilling their basic task, which is the right to free and correct information. That right is protected by the Constitution. You earned the right to be properly informed. When we drafted the Constitution, in a process in which you elected those who would be responsible for drafting the Constitution, the right to be legitimately and properly informed was established. You earned the right to be informed with the truth. The press has the responsibility of reporting the facts. You have a right to read opinions that constructively criticize the government. You have the right to read all types of criticism as long as the criticism is always based on true facts or on the valid thoughts of those who write it. That criticism must always respect

Guatemalan institutions and values. That respect and, above all, affection, appreciation, and the way in which Guatemalans treat each other must always prevail.

I want to tell you very sincerely that one of the things that foreigners visiting Guatemalan admire the most is the kindness with which we treat each other. We are always saying: Good morning, good afternoon, thank you very much. Education is a value that belongs to the Guatemalan people. Democracy must be aimed at creating the right atmosphere so that Guatemalan values will prevail in the free expression of thoughts, the way in which we say things, and the way in which we criticize each other.

My dear friends: At present those values have started to definitely fall apart, particularly in several newspapers. I must tell you that I am truly surprised. For over 1 and ½ years, I have been expressing—to owners of the written media—my concern over how some writers have begun to lose respect for their national institutions. They will start losing respect for the Guatemalan people. [Words indistinct] I once read an article saying the Guatemalan people pull their pants down before the president so that he could do as he pleased with them. I read that article in a local newspaper. That article was published by the newspaper EL GRAFICO.

I, for example, was very surprised to read how some other papers are constantly reporting negative information to the Guatemalan people. If they were negative, but [word indistinct] it would be correct, but those reports are always designed to discredit the country's institutions.

The worst part of this is that we are constantly realizing that the press is telling lies about what is going on in the country. They tell a number of lies, which—out of naivete or bad faith—are aimed at making the Guatemalan people lose three basic things: their hope in the future, their trust in the democratic process, and their trust in the country's institutions. Above all, however, those lies are aimed at making the Guatemalan people lose their security and culture, their respect for all things, and their way of life in general.

My dear friends, I therefore want to talk about the attitude of the press, particularly about the attitude of the newspapers PRENSA LIBRE and EL GRAFICO. It is amazing to see how those newspapers are currently conducting a systematic campaign to discredit the country's institutions. Sometimes they use unimportant events to do that. Other times those newspapers use false facts, and sometimes they shamelessly lie about the country's situation.

For example, here in this issue of EL GRAFICO I find a headline reading: Corruption in the Judicial Branch. They are not talking about the government. They are talking about the Supreme Court of Justice and the judicial branch in general. The report says, quote, The director of the statistics department [word indistinct] lack of criminal records, unquote. Because the director of the statistics department [word indistinct] lack of criminal records then the entire judicial branch is charged with corruption. What is this news report aiming at? What is happening to the Guatemalan newspapers? Who do they want to destroy? What system do they want to destroy? The judicial branch is not corrupt. The director of the judicial branch's statistics department is corrupt. He [word indistinct] criminal records and was found by his boss, by the Supreme Court president, [words indistinct] and arrested in order to stop the corruption.

The headline in this newspaper should read: The Judicial Branch Is Acting Against the Corruption of Some Officials. We can continue citing a number of facts that are constantly.... [Cerezo changes thought] Here I have gathered a number of false news reports published by the press. Those news reports are definitely trying to attack the country's institutions. One of the headlines reads: Vinicio Cerezo Will Be Tried. Any quack [words indistinct] has been tried for trying to break Guatemala's institutional order or because they wanted to conduct a coup d'etat. Some wanted to conduct a coup d'etat because they have never won an election. Those people are completely dishonest and do not have any kind of moral authority to criticize state institutions. In PRENSA LIBRE and in the papers with the greatest circulation, we find headlines for 3 straight days reading: Vinicio Cerezo, The Guatemalan President Will Be Tried. Those reports are talking about the president you elected to lead this nation for 5 years. This is an insult to the Guatemalan people's choice.

This kind of thing gets published because the people who write those reports have personal interests and feel contempt for the Guatemalan people's position and choice. I am concerned about that. I am doubly sorry to see that in this country—where there is freedom of thought and freedom of the press, which is in fact a right of the people and not of newspaper owners—some people are trying to deceive the Guatemalan people by creating a negative impression regarding the future, democracy, and the state institutions. The worst part of this is that I cannot find a reason to explain these newspapers' attitude.

Here it says for example: [Word indistinct] Reports Government Corruption. I understand that EL GRAFICO is a newspaper that supports a political party. EL GRAFICO is trying—I believe we must admit there is a certain degree of sincerity in that paper—to systematically discredit the government. It has a right to promote the discrediting of the government, because it wants to increase the prestige of its presidential candidate. EL GRAFICO after all supports one political party. The negative part of that paper and the other newspaper is that they are trying to discredit national institutions.

We have found some EL GRAFICO editorials that have forced us to complain to journalist associations and to associations that represent all media because they have

said [word indistinct] against the president and because the have tried to discredit the Guatemalan people's thoughts. Some papers have even made the serious mistake of systematically writing articles aimed at discrediting Guatemalan women. Any woman working for the government does not work there because of her abilities or qualities, but only because she goes to bed with the president. Guatemalan women have been despised. Democracy has been vilified by the Guatemalan newspapers. The country's institutions are systematically discredited. Why? Because at the bottom of all this—either naively or out of bad faith—are people conducting a campaign to try to create conditions to destroy the country's institutions.

I am surprised to see that newspapers which have been relatively serious, like PRENSA LIBRE, are involved in this. What is the matter with PRENSA LIBRE? Why are guerrilla reports systematically published in that newspaper? Guerrilla reports are given more preeminence and importance [words indistinct] worn-out politicians who have lost in elections and have lost prestige than the government of the Republic and honest congressmen who are doing a positive job for the benefit of the country's institutions.

It would be pitiful if PRENSA LIBRE is simply angry at the president of the Republic—[words indistinct] for several months—because we sent a Finance Ministry inspector to confirm that they were paying their taxes. Why should we not do that? Why should newspapers not have to comply with the law? Why can we investigate any company, no matter how powerful it is, but not a newspaper? Laws may be tough, but they are the same for all Guatemalans.

I must sincerely tell you, my dear Guatemalan friends, that the government of the Republic will not take any steps to prevent those publications, because in our country people won the right to express their ideas. It is the people's right. However, my friends, I owe it to the Guatemalan people to tell you that the press is systematically lying, that at least 50 percent of the reports published in the press are exaggerated, are lies, or are not properly substantiated. Unfortunately, based on current Guatemalan laws, a common citizen cannot demand the publication of a clarification, and in many cases the press systematically refuses to do so. The press, at least two of the country's leading newspapers, systematically lie.

This is not a threat; I do not want anyone to say we are threatening freedom of expression. They even have a right to lie, but they have no right to deceive the Guatemalan people about what is taking place in our democracy. If the newspaper publishers want to deny what I have just said, they must also be willing—and I challenge them publicly—to accept a televised debate. I can prove with a great number of articles I have accumulated that they have lied about the country's situation.

Do you know why I am making these charges today, dear friends? For a simple reason. Because there is also a serious press in Guatemala. For example, CRONICA is a truly serious magazine. However, it is beginning to make the same mistakes by publishing false reports or manipulating information.

It is sad to see that some radio and television newscasts that are still reliable can succumb to the temptation of turning the news—which is the Guatemalan people's right to know the truth—into a business. At least two of the country's newspapers practice yellow journalism. As I said, we know that EL GRAFICO is a political newspaper. However, what can we say about PRENSA LIBRE? Frankly, it is very shameful to see that people with a wide range of views who enjoy a good reputation in our country are publishing a pamphlet aimed at destroying the country's institutions. I am willing to prove this if they agree to hold a televised debate, because the Guatemalan people are the ones who must judge.

I urge the independent press in our country not to succumb to the temptation to lie to the Guatemalan people to increase circulation. It is true that PRENSA LIBRE is one of Latin America's biggest businesses. That is one of the reasons why they are upset, because we are conducting an investigation. We are not doing this in bad faith; the newspaper must be investigated, just like all the other businesses in our country.

However, there is no right to play with the Guatemalan people's hopes, to offend the president elected by all Guatemalans, to offend the country's institutions, to offend the [words indistinct] to discredit government officials, to destroy the image of political leaders who must lead Guatemala on the right path. If we fail, the Guatemalan people will judge us every 5 years, when a new government is elected, because we have a democratic system.

Therefore my dear friends, at this difficult time, particularly from now on, you will find a great number of lies in the press, as in the past. However, the situation is more dangerous now, because we are going to be accused of [word indistinct] and other things. For example, it has been said that I [words indistinct] absolutely honest person and I challenge anyone to prove it. It is absolutely false. However, there are going to be systematic attempts to discredit the government and political leaders to dismantle the democratic process.

My dear friends, from now on, believe less than 50 percent of everything you read in the press and wait for official reports, because I can prove that they have systematically lied, that they have been disrespectful to the country's institutions and leaders in whom you believe and will continue to believe.

My dear friends, at this difficult time, I ask, as always, that the Guatemalan people believe in me, trust me, listen to me, and give me the opportunity to defend myself. At this very difficult time for democracy, I ask you to pray with me so God will help us pull the country forward.

Lies must be faced with the truth. Therefore, we must have a firm position against lies. We must continue defending our democracy, the people's participation, liberty, and peace for all Guatemalans.

My friends, forgive me for talking to you about these delicate matters of which the Guatemalan people must be aware. The president is telling the truth, and I challenge anyone to publicly show that I am lying. I affirm that at least two of the country's newspapers are systematically harming the Guatemalan people's interests.

God bless you, my friends. We will continue discussing this subject.

Business Leaders on Media, Cerezo

PA2804033089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1305 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Labor and business leaders yesterday rejected a statement by President Vinicio Cerezo accusing the country's two most important newspapers of maintaining an antigovernment campaign that is endangering democracy.

Cerezo's charges were made against EL GRAFICO and PRENSA LIBRE, and he challenged their directors to a television debate.

Juan Francisco Alfaro, secretary general of the Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity [CUSG], told ACAN-EFE: "The president is losing his self-control." He said the president's statement attacks freedom of expression and confirms that "the so-called democratic process is nothing but demagoguery."

Alfaro said the CUSG supports the media because it cannot accept Cerezo's "being bothered by criticism or describing the exercise of a constitutional right as destabilization."

Jose Pinzon, secretary general of the General Confederation of Guatemalan Workers, said that whoever threatens freedom of expression conspires against democracy. He said: "In a de jure state, the media is the keystone for the cultivation and development of the democratic system."

The Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations has described Cerezo's message to the nation as "intimidatory" and asked the media to continue reporting what is happening in the country. Committee President Juan Luis Bosch said: "It is necessary to maintain freedom of the press and of expression in Guatemala for the people's well-being."

On 24 April, Cerezo "challenged" the directors of two of the country's most important newspapers to a debate to prove they "have lied regarding what is happening in Guatemala."

Cerezo, the first civilian president after 2 decades of military regimes, charged EL GRAFICO and PRENSA LIBRE "publish false reports," which "is endangering democracy."

The newspaper directors accepted the debate on the role of the media in Guatemala and challenged Cerezo to prove they have lied.

EL GRAFICO is owned by Jorge Carpio Nicolle, the opposition's main leader and presidential candidate of the Union of the National Center.

Honduras

Azcona Views Economic Problems, Unemployment

PA2704145589 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 89

["Exclusive interview" with President Jose Azcona by Adolfo Hernandez; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Hernandez] The national economy cannot be covered in one short report. You and I have talked for hours with Journalists Association members, and you have shown your concern for national economic problems. However, since we do not want to be repetitious, what, in your opinion, is at the heart of Honduras economic problems?

[Azcona] The foreign debt is at the heart of Honduras economic problems; that is our main problem. The foreign debt has led to instability in the balance of payments. An instability in the balance of payments adversely affects other areas, such as fiscal revenues, among other things. However, we must be careful in our use of fiscal revenue figures; it is untrue what people are saying about the depletion of fiscal revenues.

I can show you the latest Central Bank reports. As of 15 April, there was a 9.7-percent increase in revenues as compared to last year. To give you some idea of what this means, the national budget was drafted according to an 8-percent increase in revenues. Congress told us that we would not have an 8-percent increase in revenues. However, the first 3 and ½ months show an increase of 9.7-percent. We expect a somewhat higher increase in revenues by the end of this month because the income tax collection deadline has been extended. We therefore expect an increase.

The fiscal deficit problem is largely under control. Yesterday I heard reports that unemployment has increased in Honduras. I can categorically say that unemployment has not increased under this administration and that

indicators show that the inverse is true. For example, a few years ago, 125,000 metric tons of cement were used in Honduras. Following the construction of El Cajon Dam, cement consumption increased to 350,000 metric tons. However, last year the figure was 489,000 metric tons. What does this indicate? That the construction sector has grown. In an underdeveloped country such as ours, major activities employ the most workers. Areas such as the construction sector have been employing a large number of workers.

Honduras has always had an underemployment problem, which means that some workers have some means of employment during certain months of the year, especially in the rural areas. In developed countries, either you are employed or unemployed; underemployment does not exist like it does in underdeveloped countries. A lottery vendor may be underemployed, but he is not unemployed. I will never understand those reporters who look for people to be interviewed, knowing in advance how they will respond. [passage indistinct]

[Hernandez] It is said that in Honduras there is not as much violence as in other Central American countries because there is freedom of expression here. The people have the right to freely express themselves and the [words indistinct]. There are countries in which the wealthy media owners practice self-censorship [words indistinct].

[Azcona] Yes, I think to some extent the media are praiseworthy. There is full freedom. However, there must also be some awareness. If we only talk about the bad things in Honduras and if the people are not given any hope and if the good things in Honduras are not covered by the media, then our possibilities for living in peace will decrease. Our distribution of wealth is bad, but it has not reached the extremes it has reached in neighboring countries. We must seek a way to help the downtrodden, but without taking away their hopes. That is what I have tried to do. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Contra Repatriation, Relocation Plan Revealed

PA2604194989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Apr 89 p 3

["Full text" of the 22 February proposal for the repatriation and relocation of the contras, released by President Daniel Ortega in Managua "last night"]

[Text] Because of its significance for the citizens of Nicaragua,we have published the following full text of the proposal for the repatriation and relocation of contra unconventional forces in Honduras, presented by the president of Nicargua to his Central American counterparts.

Plan to implement the repatriation and relocation of the RN members in Honduras:

Through a proposal submitted by Nicaragua and through the initiative of Honduras, the five Central American countries signed a plan to implement the voluntary repatriation and relocation of the members of the unconventional forces in Honduras, for the purpose of helping to promote peace within the framework of Esquipulas II, and faithfully to comply with the agreement reached on 13-14 February 1989 in La Paz Department, El Salvador, following the procedure detailed below.

1. The objective of this agreement is the voluntary repatriation to Nicaragua or the relocation in third countries of the RN members who are currently in Honduras.

2. In order to guarantee the implementation and fulfillment of this plan, an International Commission for Support and Verification will be created. It will be formed by the UN and OAS secretaries general. This international commission will be supported by the services of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Red Cross Committee (CICR) based in Geneva. The Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments will officially invite them to provide such services.

Contingencies not considered in this plan will be resolved by the International Commission for Support and Verification, in consultation with the Honduran and Salvadoran [as received] Governments.

3. This plan will be carried out within 3 months from the date of its signing.

4. The International Commission for Support and Verification will be installed 5 days after the agreement is signed. Once the commission is installed, the UN and OAS secretaries general will undertake efforts to obtain the financial resources necessary for the implementation of this plan.

To guarantee that the repatriates receive attention in the camps, and to guarantee the repatriation, relocation, acceptance in the places of destination, and the initial settlement of the repatriates, the International Commission for Support and Verification will seek the assistance of the UNHCR and the CICR.

5. One week following its installation, the International Commission for Support and Verification will undertake an on-site inspection of the camps containing the Nicaraguan unconventional forces on the border region between the two countries, so as to determine the number of RN members and the resources they have available.

The commission will also inform those benefiting from the repatriation program about the scope of the specific programs. Beginning at that time, the CICR will be in charge of the unconventional forces' camps and the UNHCR will be in charge of the refugee relatives' camps in order to supervise the distribution of food, medical

attention, clothing, and other basic needs. With the UNHCR's and the CICR's support, the International Commission for Support and Verification will undertake efforts so that third countries will receive those who have laid down their weapons but who must not return to Nicaragua.

6. Forty-five days following its installation, the International Commission for Support and Verification will proceed to accept weapons and other materiel from unconventional forces' members. This materiel will be received by the Honduran Government, and, should the Honduran Government so request, this equipment will remain in the custody of the International Commission for Support and Verification, which will determine what will be done with this materiel.

Once the repatriation and relocation of the contras has been completed, the Honduran Government, in the presence of the International Commission for Support and Verification, will proceed to dismantle the camps abandoned by the unconventional forces.

Once the weapons are received, the International Commission for Support and Verification will issue a certification to each Nicaraguan who accepts the repatriation or relocation plan. At that time, the International Commission for Support and Verification—with the assistance of the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments and supported by the CICR and the UNHCR—will implement the plan for the voluntary repatriation of those who wish to return to Nicaragua.

The entry sites will be the border posts of Las Manos, El Espino, Teotecacinte, and Leymus. At these border posts, the Nicaraguan Government—in the presence of International Commission for Support and Verification representatives—will issue the necessary documents guaranteeing them full rights. Transportation will be provided and organized by the CICR in coordination with the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments and under the supervision of the International Commission for Support and Verification.

At that time, the plan to send to third countries those who do not wish to return to Nicaragua will be implemented. The Nicaraguan Government will issue passports for those who request them. These passports will be issued at all Nicaraguan consulates.

8. [number as received] As much as possible, the displaced persons will be taken directly to a permanent settlement. Within the scope of the Nicaraguan Government, and depending on the funds allotted by the United Nations, the OAS, the UNCHR, and the CICR, land will be distributed and tools and supplies provided to those who wish to work the land or to raise cattle.

The UNCHR will be responsible for the repatriation plans in the departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Esteli (Region 1); the CICR will concentrate its respective activities in Regions 5 and 7 and in the autonomous Atlantic region.

9. This plan will conclude with the contras' laying down their weapons, their repatriation and voluntary resettlement in Nicaragua, the relocation to third countries of all those who choose not to return to Nicaragua, and the dismantling of the installations that belonged to the unconventional forces.

10. At the conclusion of the plan, the International Commission for Support and Verification will issue a certification regarding the fulfillment of this plan. This certification will be sent to the five Central American presidents, the Esquipulas II agreement's executive committee, and the Honduran and Nicaraguan national reconciliation commissions.

11. After the certification on the fulfillment of the plan has been released, the International Commission for Support and Verification will consider its work completed and will deliver the files of the repatriated and relocated persons to the Nicaraguan National Reconciliation Commission for follow-up within the framework of its duties, in witness whereof we sign the following Implementation Plan.

[Signed] For the Republic of Honduras, Jose Azcona Hoyo,

For the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra,

For the Republic of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sanchez,

For the Republic of El Salvador, Jose Napoleon Duarte,

For the Republic of Guatemala, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo,

22 February 1989

Ortega 'Annoyed' With Opinion Poll

PA2704135189 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has shown annoyance with the results of an opinion poll conducted by the newspaper LA CRONICA revealing a drop in the popularity of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

They [the poll results] are crazy, President Ortega said when told that the possible presidential candidacy of [LA PRENSA Board of Directors President] Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamorro is gaining strength and that the opposition for the first time has surpassed the government in a scientifically and technically conducted poll. They are crazy, President Ortega replied. As reported, LA CRONICA will publish the full results of its second opinion poll today.

Opposition Parties List Election Demands
PA2704202389 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Communique issued by Group of 15 opposition political parties in Managua on 25 April 1989; read by Miriam Arguello, secretary general of Conservative Party — recorded]

[Text] We, the 15 parties that make up the Nicaraguan civic opposition, upon the expiration today, 25 April, of the deadline for the Nicaraguan Government to comply with the agreements of Costa del Sol, El Salvador—by which it committed itself to amend the electoral legislation and the law on freedom of thought [libertad de pensamiento], which are necessary to hold a truly democratic, clean, and honest election—wish to convey to the Nicaraguan people, Central American presidents, and international public opinion our position regarding the government's steps to comply with these agreements:

1. The amendments to the Electoral Law and the new Media Law were unilaterally approved by the Sandinist majority in the National Assembly without regard to the demands of the opposition, which were submitted in a timely and formal manner. The Sandinist majority also did not take into consideration the fundamental recommendations that were made by the electoral commissions of Costa Rica and Venezuela. The approval of these laws was exclusively intended to give President Ortega something to submit to justify the requests for money from the governments he is visiting during his European tour.

2. The government has refused to comply with the commitment to grant a general amnesty as provided for in the Esquipulas II agreements.

3. The electoral reforms maintain the executive branch's control over the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] and other electoral bodies, clearly failing to comply with the El Salvador agreements, which point out that the composition of the CSE will include a balanced participation by representatives of the opposition political parties. The subordination of the electoral branch to the executive branch leaves the opposition defenseless and unable to participate in a true exercise of democracy because the conditions required to hold free, just, and honest elections are nonexistent.

4. The electoral reforms do not guarantee the establishment of a [words indistinct] document or a reliable vote registration system, even though this was one of the demands of the opposition and one of the recommendations of the Costa Rican and Venezuelan electoral commissions. Such guarantees as the right of Nicaraguans living abroad to vote; a moratorium on military service; the elimination of itinerant voting by the military; equitable financing for all parties; the right of opposition parties to receive financial assistance without hindrance; establishment or creation of electoral police; election of mayors by direct, popular vote; equitable access to the media; and other equally important democratic conditions have been repeatedly denied by the ruling party, even though they are necessary to inspire confidence in the elections and to guarantee that they will be democratic.

5. Article 25 of the electoral law amendments moves the date of the elections forward to 25 February 1990, though the terms of incumbents will not end until 10 January 1991. Should the opposition win the elections in February 1990 an abnormal and serious judicial and political situation will arise since the newly elected authorities would not assume power for 1 year, and the incumbents would continue to exercise power despite the expressed opposition of the majority of the people against their tenure—a situation that would lead to growing social and political instability.

6. The new general law on media is totalitarian in nature and restricts the right to freedom of speech and information. In addition, it leaves the Interior Ministry in charge of enforcing and interpreting the law, which gives it powers to impart justice that are the province of the judicial branch, in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution. In addition, it subjects journalists to double jeopardy—administrative and judicial trial—for the same crime.

This law created a National Communications Council that is ineffective and totally under government control.

7. In view of the foregoing, we insist on our demand for a political negotiation through national dialogue to fully and truly amend the electoral legislation—on the basis of our demands and the recommendations of the Venezuelan and Costa Rican electoral commissions—and, in addition, to take steps in keeping with the El Salvador agreements to establish, by mutual agreement between the government and the opposition political parties, an appropriate date for the 1990 elections as well as the physical and legal mechanisms that will allow the civic opposition to assume power if it wins the elections.

Law 56 Enacts Electoral Law Amendments
PA2704200089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 89 p 6

[Law No 56 enacting Electoral Law amendments approved by the Legislative Assembly on 18 April]

[Text] Law No 56.

The president of Nicaragua hereby announces to the Nicaraguan people that:

The legally empowered Nicaraguan National Assembly has decreed the following amendments on the Electoral Law:

Article 1. Article 6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] will consist of five magistrates and their respective alternates, who will be selected by the National Assembly from lists presented by the Nicaraguan president. The National Assembly will select the CSE president from the magistrates chosen.

To strengthen political pluralism, as established in the Constitution, the president will ask the legal representatives of the political parties, excluding representatives of the ruling party, to submit the names of qualified citizens to be included in the lists mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

The president shall take these lists into account in compiling two lists of prospective magistrates and two lists of prospective alternates. One of the lists should consist of citizens proposed by the representatives of the political parties, according to the order in which they were elected in the past elections for supreme authorities [autoridades supremas].

The political party representatives will have 15-days, beginning on the date of the notification, to submit their proposals. Should they fail to do so within this time, the president will submit the five proposed lists to the National Assembly.

Article 2. Article 17 is hereby amended to read as follows.

There will be nine electoral councils for the organization of elections. Each council will consist of a president and two council members with their corresponding alternates, appointed by the CSE.

The CSE shall appoint the second of these council members and his corresponding alternate from the lists of citizens submitted by the parties' legal representatives. The parties will have 15 days, beginning on the date of the notification, to submit their candidates. Should the parties fail to do so, the CSE shall appoint the members and their alternates from its own list of candidates.

For these appointments, the CSE shall consider the political pluralism established in the Constitution and the results of the most recent election of supreme authorities and shall strive to achieve a balance.

Article 3. Article 19 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The electoral council president and members shall comply with the requirements established in Articles 7 and 8 of this law.

The alternates shall act on the councils in case of the temporary or permanent absence of the principals.

The CSE shall replace the electoral councils president, principal, and alternates who are on permanent leave.

Any person seeking a position as either a principal or alternate second council member after the deadline for candidate registration should have been nominated by one of the political parties participating in the elections.

The CSE will remove ex-officio any second member who fails to meet this requirement. The CSE shall select a replacement in accordance with Article 17 of this law.

Article 4. Article 26 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The members of the Ballot Receiving Boards [Juntas Receptoras de Votos] [JRV] shall be appointed by the electoral council of the corresponding region in the following manner:

1. The electoral council is free to choose the JRV president as well as one of the board members and his corresponding alternate.

2. The other member and his alternate, from candidates proposed by the legal parties. The absence of proposed candidates for one or more JRV's shall not prevent their formation and activities.

Following the expiration of the deadline for the registration of candidates, the members referred to in paragraph 2 of this article must have been presented by one of the parties participating in the elections. The corresponding electoral council shall remove ex officio those JRV members failing to meet this requirement and shall replace them in accordance with this article.

Article 5. Article 29 is hereby amended to read as follows:

All political parties, alliances, or organizations that have proposed candidates will enjoy this right.

The lack of appointment of one or more inspectors [fiscales] in one or more electoral councils will not prevent their functioning.

Article 6. Article 30 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The inspectors appointed according to the previous article will have the following duties:

1) To be present at the site of the JRV during the days when registrations, voting, and vote counting take place.

2) To be present at the CSE during the registration of citizens and during the recount of votes.

3) To be present at the Regional Computation Centers during the reception and processing of JRV reports.

4) To be present at the CSE National Computation Center during the reception and processing of the JRV and CSE reports.

5) To make remarks in the minutes as appropriate and to sign them.

The refusal to sign the minutes will be noted in the minutes by noting the alleged reasons given. Signing the minutes is not a requirement for their validation.

6) To file the appeals provided for in this law.

7) Whatever other duties are established by law and by the CSE's resolutions.

Article 7. Article 35 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Registrations will be made by the JRV according to where citizens normally live, even though they may temporarily be somewhere else.

Members of the national defense and security forces will register with the respective JRV where they are stationed.

The members, inspectors, and alternates of a JRV will register with that board.

Nicaraguans who are temporarily abroad to study, for health reasons, on business or pleasure can register at the consulate with jurisdiction for the place where they are during the periods specified for this purpose. Nicaraguans who are members of the diplomatic corps may also exercise this right. They will have to vote in Nicaragua at the corresponding JRV.

The CSE will issue regulations to cover all of the above.

Article 8. Article 59 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Council of Political Parties will be composed of:

1) The president of the Assembly of Political Parties, who will act as Council president.

2) Four members elected by the Assembly of Political Parties, including its vice president, according to Articles 55 and 56 of this law.

3) Five members elected by the National Assembly, including its secretary, according to Article 55 of this law.

The members of the Council of Political Parties will be appointed with their respective alternates.

Article 9. Article 106 is hereby amended to read as follows:

During the election campaign, the opening and closing dates will be determined by the CSE, the political parties, party alliances, and associations with popular support that launch candidates will explain to the people their ideological principles, their political, social, and economic programs, and their government platforms. They may do this at any place where citizens have the right to vote.

The election campaign will have a duration of:

1) Eighty days for the election of president and National Assembly representatives.

2) Forty-two days for the election of deputies to the Central American Parliament, Regional Councils, and Municipal Councils.

When simultaneous elections are held, the longer election period will be used.

The propaganda period for plebiscites and referenda will be 30 days.

Article 10. Article 100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

During the election campaign for president and vice president of the republic and for representative to the

National Assembly, the CSE will guarantee to the political parties or alliances of parties that present candidates:

1) Thirty minutes daily in each channel of the Sandinist Television System [SSTV].

2) Forty-five minutes daily in each of the state-owned radio stations.

Those airtimes will be equally distributed among the political parties or alliances of parties.

The parties or alliances of parties will have the right to use private radio stations for their election campaign through an open contract system; the private radio stations are obliged to guarantee each party or alliance a minimum of 5 minutes daily.

The political parties or alliances of parties can use the airtime to which they are entitled all at once or distributed throughout the week. For this purpose, they will present their calendar and schedule of programs to the CSE, which, after hearing them and bearing in mind the SSTV's and the radio stations' programming, will draw up a final calendar and schedule, seeking equality in the distribution of radio and television airtime.

The SSTV and the various radio stations channels will present within a specific period their proposed rates to the CSE, which will set them.

Each political party or alliance of parties will pay for airtime and the cost of producing and making their programs on the televison channels and radio stations.

Whatever the origin of the funds to finance the radio and television programs, they must be produced and made in the country in order to protect national companies; if conditions do not permit this, they can be made abroad. The CSE will make a decision on this impossibility, after a report by the appropriate technical bodies.

Article 11. Article 111 is hereby amended to read as follows:

During municipal elections, the CSE will guarantee each and every political party or alliance of parties:

1) 15 minutes daily of radio time in each and every radio station that does not have national coverage in those regions where the corresponding parties have nominated candidates.

2) 20 minutes daily of radio time in each and every radio station with national coverage and 5 minutes of airtime in each television channel at the end of the campaign, if the parties have nominated candidates in at least 80 percent of the municipalities.

Radio time in the various regions will be equally distributed among the parties.

For the purpose of determining the type of coverage of the various radio stations, the CSE will classify the stations.

Article 12. Article 112 is hereby amended to read as follows:

In the election campaign of regional councils in the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic coast, the CSE will guarantee the following to the political parties or alliances of parties:

1) Thirty minutes daily of radio time in each and every radio station of the Autonomous Regions.

2) Five minutes of radio time in each radio station with national coverage during the opening and closing of the campaign. This regulation is equally valid for use of airtime on the SSTV.

Airtime will be equally distributed among the political parties and alliances of parties.

The amount of radio time can never be less than 5 minutes per week, even if parties exceed the total amount of radio time guaranteed.

Article 13. Article 115 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The fact that one party has candidates simultaneously running for various types of posts will not have a cumulative effect on the radio time granted by the previous articles. In that case, the option that offers the highest amount of time will be used.

Article 14. Articles 123 and 124 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Article 123: The overall approved, allotted sum of money will be distributed in the following way:

1) Fifty percent of the allotted sum will be equally distributed among the political parties and alliances of parties that nominate candidates.

2) The remaining 50 percent will be proportionally distributed among the political parties or alliances of parties participating in the election process in accordance with the number of votes they obtained in the previous elections.

If political parties that were part of an alliance in the previous elections participate separately in the next elections, the part of the 50 percent allotment that should correspond to that party will be the sum given to the alliance divided among the number of parties that formed the alliance.

The associations with popular support will receive a sum calculated in direct proportion to the number of people in the voting precincts in which they are nominating candidates.

Article 124. The Fund for Democracy is created to help finance election expenses. These funds will be provided by the CSE and will come from foreign donations. The donations will be made to finance the political parties, alliances of parties, and independent parties participating in the elections. The donations must be given to the Central Bank or to the Foreign Cooperation Ministry. The funds will be regulated by the corresponding laws.

Donations will be distributed in the following way:

1) Fifty percent of the donation goes to the political party, the alliance of parties, or the independent party to which the money was donated.

2) The remaining 50 percent will form part of a common fund used by the CSE for the election process.

Any other form of donation will be subjected to what Article 127 of the current law establishes.

Article 15. Article 129 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Political propaganda during the election campaign must respect the nation's basic principles established by the Constitution and framed within our norms of ethics, morality, and due appreciation for the other political parties, alliances of parties, or independent parties, candidates, voters, and the Nicaraguan people in general.

It is strictly forbidden to insult or slander candidates.

It is forbidden to abuse or illegally use government property for political propaganda.

No political activities can be conducted in government offices during working hours; no political activities can be conducted in universities, schools, or institutes during school hours.

Any violation of the above rules or any other type of similar action will be subject to the provisions of Articles 196, 197, and 199 of this law.

Article 16. Article 165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The election of representatives to the National Assembly in each region will be carried out using the electoral quotient [cociente electoral] proportional representation system in accordance with what the following articles establish.

Article 17. Article 166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Each political party or alliance of parties will be assigned the number of seats that result from dividing the number of votes they obtain by the region's electoral quotient.

The first candidates for principal and alternate representatives to the assembly will be chosen from the lists presented by each political party or alliance of parties until reaching the number of representatives that correspond to each party or alliance of parties.

Article 18. Article 167 is amended to read as follows:

The assembly seats that are not assigned after applying the provisions established in the previous articles will be assigned in accordance with the lists of candidates and in accordance with the following procedure:

1) The political parties or alliances of parties will be ordered according to the number of votes they obtain beginning with the party that obtained the most votes and ending with the one that obtained the least votes.

2) One seat will be assigned to each political party or alliance of parties according to the order determined by the above provision.

3) For each political party or alliance of parties, the principal and alternate will be chosen from those candidates who follow in sequence those who were already elected and in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article.

Article 19. Article 171 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The candidates for the Central American Parliament to which Articles 1, 3, 56, and 131 paragraph 3 of this law refer, shall be elected nationwide.

Article 20. Article 173 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The electoral quotient proportional representation system will be used in the election of members of regional councils in the Atlantic Coast Autonomous Region. Each party will be assigned the number of seats that result from dividing each party's total votes by the voting precinct's electoral quotient.

Members of regional councils will be chosen according to the order in which they appear on the lists until reaching the number that corresponds to each party.

Article 21. Article 175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The election of members of municipal councils will be conducted in accordance with the following articles:

Article 22. A new article is to be added to Chapter II of Title XI, to read as follows:

The voters in an electoral district may only cast their vote for a single slate of candidates without making any changes to it.

Article 23. A new article is to be added to Chapter I of Title XV, to read as follows:

There will be a National Computation Center, and a Regional Computation Center will operate in each one of the Electoral Councils in the places established by the CSE and the corresponding Electoral Council.

Article 24. Article 209 is abolished.

Article 25. Five new articles are to be added to Chapter II of Title XV, to read as follows:

Article 214. The elections for representatives to the National Assembly, president and vice president, and the Municipal Councils for the periods beginning on 9, 10, and 15 January 1991 will be held on 25 February 1990.

Article 215. The swearing-in ceremony for the members of the Municipal Councils elected on 25 February 1990 will be on 15 January 1991, the date on which the corresponding period will begin.

Article 216. Armed Nicaraguans who have accepted the demobilization plan drafted by the Central American presidents based on the joint declaration signed in El Salvador on 14 February 1989, can register, exercise their right to vote, and be elected with full guarantees.

Article 217. To grant legal status to political organizations that have so requested before the date the amendments to this law entered into effect, the Council of Political Parties will observe the following procedure:

1) The political organizations must withdraw their request at the Council of Political Parties within 7 days after this new law enters into effect.

2) The request must be accompanied by the following:

2.1. Public document creating the political organization.

2.2. Name and symbol of the party the political organizations to establish.

2.3. The party's political principles, programs, and statutes.

2.4. The party's assets.

2.5. Names of the members of its national directors and of at least nine department directors.

2.6. The name of its legal representative and his alternate.

The political party's name and symbol must distinguish it from the others so that this party cannot be confused with existing political parties.

3) The Council of Political Parties will issue a ruling within 15 days without major complications, but it will first hear the political parties that may be affected, and it will rule within this period on the requests pursuant to the terms of the current law.

The political parties granted their legal status this way will lose that right if they do not participate in the elections that immediately follow. will begin on 25 April 1989, and will consist of the following stages:

Article 218. The electoral process will begin on 25 April 1989, and will consist of the following stages:

1) An initial 4-month period from 25 April to 24 August for the preparation, organization, and mobilization of the political parties, to consist of the following:

1.1. Submission of proposals to the president on the CSE composition based on the terms established in Article 6 of this law.

1.2. Submission of proposals to the CSE on the composition of the Regional Electoral Councils and the JRV pursuant to Article 17 and 26 of this law.

1.3. The right to hold public demonstrations to conduct political campaigns, with prior authorization from the appropriate authorities.

1.4. Permission to hold activities to achieve legal status in the case of political organizations that do not have it.

1.5. Advertisements to get citizens to register in their electoral lists.

1.6. Appointment of poll representatives.

2) A subsequent 6-month period will be divided into two stages:

2.1. From 25 August to 3 December 1989, consisting of the following:

2.1.1. Public demonstrations without prior authorization from the authorities; however, they must be announced and the corresponding bond must be paid.

2.1.2. Use of television channel 2 based on the programming prepared by the CSE.

2.1.3. Securing of state aid for the election campaign.

2.1.4. Authorization to collect signatures for candidates of associations with popular support.

2.1.5. Registration of candidates for the elections.

2.2. From 4 December 1989 to 21 February 1990, consisting of the following:

2.2.1 Election campaign pursuant to the current law.

2.2.2. Designing of election ballots.

Article 26. The current law will enter into force upon the date of its publication in any media, without precluding its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, the official newspaper.

Issued at the debate hall of the National Assembly on 28 April 1989. Year of the 10th anniversary.

National Assembly President Carlos Nunez

National Assembly Secretary General Rafael Solis Cerda

Therefore: Regard this a law of the Republic. To be promulgated and executed. Managua 22 April 1989. "Year of the 10th Anniversary"

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Ramirez Announces Measures To Help Agriculture
PA2704034289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Acting President Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado has announced that an additional package of measures to support agricultural production has been implemented to complement previously adopted economic measures designed to reduce spiraling inflation and bolster production.

Ramirez met with farm loan administrators, to whom he explained in detail the measures taken by the revolutionary government with regard to the results of the 1988-1989 season and the general outlook for the 1989-1990 season. These are: banking guarantees, short-term farm loan interest rates, and short-term loans for coffee and cattle production as a means of implementing the economic policies announced by President Daniel Ortega during his European tour.

In this context, the acting president said that the goal has been to combat hyperinflation through financial and fiscal measures first so as to increase production later. Without a minimum of economic stability, which was achieved by reducing inflation by 20 percent in March, we would not have been able to take these additional measures, which have restored the currency's real value. That is why we used an interest rate policy that is in no way arbitrary or whimsical, Ramirez Mercado said.

The National Planning Council has approved preferential guaranteed prices for basic grains such as corn, beans, and sorghum, which will guarantee farmers'

income from those products and which also implies that farmers will receive loans to finance the planting and harvesting of those crops. These measures will be announced in May. The measures are designed to encourage production, acting President Sergio Ramirez said today, in his meeting with officials in charge of farm loans. There is only one economic policy in Nicaragua, and only one economic leadership: the National Planning Council. All those who work in the revolution's various economic institutions and agencies are part of a single cause, which everyone defends in his own little trench, Ramirez said. Those who criticize particular aspects of the economic measures taken by the revolutionary government are simply disagreeing with the country's economic policy. That is why it is our duty to try to harmonize common interests, since among revolutionaries there cannot be a consensus; what there must be is discipline in implementing a central economic policy determined by the government, Sergio Ramirez said.

Ramirez Presents Council Candidates List

PA2804042889 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Acting President Sergio Ramirez Mercado today presented a letter containing the list of government candidates for the presidency of the National Council of Political Parties, which currently has a Sandinist majority.

The list of candidates presented by Ramirez includes current president Hugo Mejia; alternates (Marcos Payes) and Felix Contreras; Francisco Lopez; and Gloria Cardenal.

New Paper Trinchera To Begin Circulating

PA2804034389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] The first issue of the weekly newspaper TRINCHERA will begin circulating nationwide on 27 April, according to information given by TRINCHERA Director Mauricio Lacayo. Lacayo said TRINCHERA will contribute to the current debate of ideologies, especially now that the Nicaraguan revolution is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Lacayo said: "The weekly newspaper will refute with practical and scientific arguments the backward ideas supported by the various labor unions, currents of thought, and political parties composing the opposition."

The ideas of progressive professionals, experts, and intellectuals who have something to say in favor of Nicaragua's economic recovery and the consolidation of the revolutionary process will have a place in the new weekly paper.

Lacayo said he decided to call the paper TRINCHERA ["trench"] because that was the name of the first newspaper founded by the late Commander Carlos Fonseca, chief of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The TRINCHERA director explained that the first issue contains substantive commentaries on May Day, the workers's law, labor union democracy, the experiences of the labor movement in the struggle against the trade embargo, and entertainment notes.

TRINCHERA is a 16-page tabloid that will cost 1,000 cordobas. TRINCHERA's address is one and a half blocks from Las Palmas Church, on the right hand side of the street.

Panama

Noriega Says 7 May Elections Not Suspended

PA2704154089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1445 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], has said that "the government has no intention of suspending the 7 May elections," despite what he described as a "macabre U.S. plot against a sovereign state."

In statements to ACAN-EFE regarding rumors about the possible postponement of the elections as a result of the growing tension between Panama and the United States, Noriega said that "the government and its branches have no intention of suspending the elections." The general added that "the North Americans want to make us do that so they can again criticize us, but we will not play into their hands."

Regarding the charge against the United States that Panama will present to the UN Security Council tomorrow, Noriega said he hopes that "the entire world will learn what is really happening in order to counteract the U.S. control of the media."

"What has been discovered is so macabre, within the doctrine of democracy, that we believe that honest governments have to react in the face of this monstrous plan and that they must ask themselves how many times it has also been carried out against Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia."

The 7 May election campaigns are being carried out amid great controversy surrounding the general's continuation as FDP commander. In addition, there is a growing confrontation with the United States. The latest episode has been the disclosure alleging that the U.S. Administration decided to give $10 million to the opposition as part of a plan to overthrow the general.

"Those $10 million are not innocent, and they form part of a real plan to conspire against a defenseless nation such as Panama, which has never been at war," Noriega said, denouncing the U.S. plan to "bring violence to our election system."

According to the general, "in exchange for these $10 million, if it wins, the opposition is willing to modify the Torrijos-Carter canal treaty and to yield military bases in Panama to the United States after 1999."

According to the treaty signed in 1977 by Carter and General Omar Torrijos—the head of government at that time—the United States will have to turn over the canal to Panama and the U.S. troops stationed in the country must be withdrawn at the end of 1999.

Noriega—who said he did not want to talk about other issues that, according to him, "concern politicians"—said that Panama is facing a "macabre plan" aimed at "announcing a fraud and provoking violence in the streets" on 7 May.

As to who is responsible, Noriega spoke cautiously about U.S. President George Bush, saying that "everything originates from the U.S. Embassy in Panama, which has been deceiving its superiors in Washington and prodding the Panamanian opposition into violence, making them think that the U.S. Army will come to their aid."

He described U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis as "a puppet of John Maisto," whom he described as a political adviser who is masterminding "a plan for Panama that is a carbon copy of the one used in the Philippines, just as it was used in Haiti."

The Panamanian progovernment newspapers have often reported that Maisto was in the Philippines when Ferdinand Marcos was ousted and Corazon Aquino assumed power.

Asked about the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with the United States, Noriega replied: "Politicians and experts have concurred that Panama should keep calm and show the world that it is the United States, not Panama, that is being intransigent."

He added that Ambassador Davis "does not exist, as far as we are concerned. He is just another criminal, just another U.S. citizen protected by the treaties." Noriega said, however, that he is "disturbed" by President Bush, who, according to Noriega, "began his term by reading a sort of Christian prayer in which he virtually confessed to all his sins." Noriega, using a typically Panamanian saying "that I get from my grandmother," said that Bush "eats saints and shits devils [come santo y caga diablo]."

The general, who constantly travels throughout the country discreetly protected by bodyguards, declined to comment on international news agency reports on a possible coup and other matters.

He said simply: "I am a child of God, and children of God are not afraid. No bullet can kill a free country's desire to seek solutions." Noriega made his remarks shortly before receiving an envoy of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, to whom Noriega has granted permission to observe the elections as head of a delegation.

"In Spanish, to observe [observar] means to look, to see, but without meddling in someone else's business," the Panamanian strongman said in response to a question on the conditions for accepting the presence of foreign observers. According to the general, "whoever comes to look and observe will be given every opportunity and have protection."

Solis Palma, Noriega Say Carter Visit 'Welcome'

PA2704220089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, said today that his administration has no "fear" of having former U.S. President Jimmy Carter come to Panama to observe the 7 May elections.

"We are not afraid of that," Solis Palma told ACAN-EFE. However, he added: "What we do not want is for the country to become a center of international snooping or for others to continuously meddle in our politics. We are not going to permit that," he stressed.

Solis Palma made these statements today at the end of a working meeting with mid-level executive branch officials.

Last night, a Carter adviser announced that the former president will arrive in Panama shortly before 7 May to be an election observer.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, "has told me that Carter would be welcome," Robert A. Pastor, director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the "Carter Center," said after meeting with the general last night.

Pastor told Noriega, Panama's "strongman," of the former president's intention to act as an observer at the elections at the head of a large delegation that could also include former U.S. President Gerald Ford.

In 1977, Carter and the late General Omar Torrijos signed the Panama Canal treaties, which guarantee Panama total sovereignty over its territory after 31 December 1999.

Solis Palma said that with only 11 days remaining before the elections, the outlook for the elections is "good." He added that "the idea of fraud, which they (the opposition) wished to wave as a banner has been losing ground."

The presence of Carter and other observers in this country during the elections means, in Solis Palma's opinion, that "the world is vigilantly watching Panama's democratic elections."

If Carter, who is president of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government, comes to Panama, it would be his second visit to the country, shortly after the signing of the Panama Canal treaties. [sentence as received]

Alleged U.S.-Opposition Plans Revealed

PA2704033489 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 24 Apr 89 pp 16, 17, 18

[Article by Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes on "memorandum" prepared by the Sawyer-Miller firm in New York on 16 February 1986]

[Text] One morning in December 1986, an important member of the Sawyer-Miller firm of New York came to my offices on Sixth Avenue in New York to say good-bye to me, because he was about to begin an 8-month trip around the world. He had been the main author of a memorandum concerning the Panamanian Government's political problems and the government's perspectives before the 1989 elections. Our visitor left us a copy of the memorandum and especially emphasized the strategy agreed upon by the Panamanian opposition and the U.S. Government to lead the opposition to power in the 1989 elections following the "Philippine" example. "I hope that plan does not work out," our visitor said with visible concern. One and a half years later, those who put that strategic plan into effect are also concerned. What you are about to read is an excerpt of that memorandum, which reveals in detail the analysis prepared 3 years ago on what would happen in Panama:

The Opposition's Strategy in the United States

One must give praise when praise is deserved. The Panamanian opposition inside and outside Panama is playing an intelligent game. They exploit the Panamanian Government's problems, mold their messages according to the various audiences, and maintain a realistic view of their own weaknesses. They are waging a classic guerrilla war.

The Panamanian opposition learned from the Philippine opposition, who realized they could not win the war against Marcos inside the Philippines. They had to take the war to Washington to gain credibility and accelerate the Marcos government's economic decline. In that way, they would force Marcos to adopt a submissive attitude toward the banks, the U.S. Government, and the IMF. The Philippine opposition also skillfully used issues revealed by the U.S. Congress and by the U.S. press and shamed Marcos on the domestic front.

The strategy worked out well and succeeded in advancing elections and increasing U.S. pressure to force Marcos' departure. The opposition's strategy had succeeded.

Panama is not the Philippines. The Panamanian opposition's forces in Panama and Washington are unaware of that. As we explained in previous memos, the opposition has worked effectively with its friends in the United States to weaken the Panamanian Government's financial situation. They have tried to block AID funds, PTP [not further identified] refinancing, World Bank approval of economic reforms, and the Bank of America syndicate loan. Opposition members and their friends walk the halls of the U.S. Congress and the offices of the Reagan administration seeking ways to create problems. The attempt to weaken Panama's financial situation is accompanied by a campaign to create a certain image of Panama in the press and among those who formulate policies that will emphasize the opposition members' concern about their country's political stability and future. The opposition provides the rightists with stories about communist penetration and gives the leftists articles about press restrictions, corruption, and human rights violations.

The Panamanian opposition in Panama and in the United States has skillfully used the human rights issue as their main weapon. That grants "moral authority" to the opposition.

The Spadafora case is a good weapon. It is a point on which both U.S. liberals and conservatives agree. It is a volatile topic in Washington, which is why the opposition prays that the government does not solve the case. They pray that the government continues handling that case poorly and provides them with another incident to exploit.

The opposition's offensive will increase in 1986 [as received]. The opposition will have more allies, and U.S. pressures on Panama will increase.

The Opposition's Strategy in Panama

You know their strategy in Panama very well; it needs little explanation, except perhaps for the fact the opposition is successfully increasing its control over public debates. Whenever the opposition forces the government to react to one of their accusations, they win. Whenever the government publishes an article attacking Eisenmann or others, the opposition gains more credibility. Whenever they infuriate the government enough that it drifts away from its plan of operations, they make progress.

The voters will seldom center on the opposition's weaknesses, because the main arguments will always be the government's evil actions. It is not possible to turn the discussion around toward the opposition's merits or faults; discussions will always center on the government's faults. That is the burden of being in power.

Voters are not supporting the opposition's ideology or programs. The opposition does not represent a threat. It must not be regarded as a threat or as the source of the government's problems.

To defeat the opposition, the government must face its own faults. People would prefer to remain loyal to the 1968 revolution, but if voters cannot catch the government's attention and make it change its methods, they will use the opposition as a vehicle toward change, as a stick with which to hit the government.

The Problem in the United States

Relations with the United States are bad; they have become bitter because Barletta's resignation and Spadafora's murder have stirred up old hostilities and fears. Despite the smiles seen when Panamanian officials meet with Reagan administration officials, the basic U.S. Administration viewpoint remains unchanged since Barletta's resignation. "Delvalle is a puppet; the National Guard is corrupt and greatly influenced by the leftists; the human rights situation is deteriorating; instability is increasing; Panama is a great problem."

It is important to study the underlying causes of this hostility before referring to the specific factors that have made it worse. We must understand the context of the Reagan administration's decisionmaking process so we can better comprehend what seems to be irrational, uncoordinated, and illinformed policies.

Several key, underlying issues set the tone of Panamanian-U.S. relations.

Historic

It is surprising to see the depth and emotional impact of the scars left by the U.S. congressional debates on the canal treaties. Those debates still enliven the policies toward Panama, especially among conservatives, who are very strong in the Reagan administration. There are still those who "want the canal to be returned to them."

The right has not forgotten how useful the canal issue was in the 1978 [as published], 1980, and 1984 elections. They have never stopped using the arguments they used during the canal debates.

For example, Senator Helms and his staff will always try to prove what they were unable to prove during the Senate's secret session on Panama in 1977. On that occasion, all the evidence produced by Helms' staff on the charges of drug trafficking, gunrunning, and communism in Panama were disclosed and refuted. Helms was embarrassed in front of his colleagues, but he will never admit he was wrong. Senate majority leader Bob Dole was strong enough to reject the accusations when proven false. Helms' staff will continue working night and day to prove he was right.

Ronald Reagan's 1976 campaign gained momentum with the topic of Panama. He used it again in 1980. Many persons who directed his campaign are in his administration or very close to it. Although Senator Helms is the Panamanian Government's most well-known foe, there are less emotional but equally negative persons working to "straighten" what they consider to be "historically wrong."

Henry Kissinger once said that the Middle East was a domestic issue not a foreign policy issue for the United States. The same can be said about the "canal issue." Panamanians must accept and realize there is little they will ever be able to do to prove why the Panama Canal treaties were appropriate for U.S. strategic interests, stability in Panama, and peace in the region. This is an issue that goes beyond debate for many powerful persons in the current U.S. Administration.

Ideologues

During the Panama Canal treaties debates, the extreme right ideologically attacked the Panamanian Government, using one of its many weapons. The memory of that attack is something to be remembered. I find the charges to be naive, because I know the majority of the Panamanians who were targets of the attacks on "leftists" in the Panamanian Government; however, I am aware of the harm caused by the charges.

Ambassador Briggs and his staff heightened that view. As you know, they devoted a great deal of attention to the opposition. They knew little about the major forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] and the government. That distance from Panama's true political life only allowed them to live comfortably with their prejudices in the embassy. They conveyed their prejudices to Washington, where the right-wingers used them for their own purposes.

In Washington, the embassy's views on "the communist infiltration" of the Panamanian Government and the close working relationship between the Panama Defense Forces and Castro is fed into the administration's central obsession: Nicaragua. A White House official told me about Mexico [as published]: "We only look at Central America in relation to Nicaragua; no other topic in Central America interests us." Obviously, Panama is too neutral to be of any service, so Panama, in their minds, is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

This perception is intransigent and deeply rooted: When I talked to another White House official about General Manuel Antonio Noriega's intervention to obtain the release of Salvadoran President Duarte's daughter, he replied that that was proof of how dangerously close Noriega was to the communists and that it would have been better if Duarte's daughter had remained a captive instead of there having been negotiations with her captors.

The Reagan administration's position toward Panama is identical to its position toward Mexico. The administration feels closer to Mexico's National Action Party than to Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party and to the PRD. It will never feel comfortable with the present Panamanian regime's actions, but, as with Mexico, if governments give the impression of being domestically solid and stable, the U.S. Administration will suppress its preferences. It is surprising to see how the U.S. Administration views Panama compared to its view of Greece, for example. In Greece, there is a leftist prime minister who is openly hostile toward the United States and who has sided with the Soviets on the Korean Airlines, Polish, and other issues. We can see how administration members go out of their way to please and help Papandreou. Here is another example: The administration gives more aid to Marxist Mozambique than to a strategic ally such as Panama. It is difficult to understand the hostility toward a government such as Panama's, because it is foolish and unnatural. It is a product of U.S. ideology concerning this hemisphere.

Until recently, the anti-Panamanian feelings existed only in the ideologists of the extreme right, but this situation is changing and true problems are emerging: Liberals are joining the anti-Panamanian coalition because of their concern over human rights and corruption. The opposition and the U.S. right have successfully used the Spadafora case and accusations of human rights violations to lessen the Panamanian Government's credibility from the liberals' viewpoint. U.S. liberals know little about Panama. They do not know about the social progress that has been achieved and they see the situation in inexact and simplistic terms. Their points of reference for discribing "Noriega's Panama" are "Marcos' Philippines" and "Somoza's Nicaragua." The present liberal ideologists believe anyone who wears a uniform is fascist and corrupt. Unfortunately, they cannot see any difference between Pinochet and Noriega.

This is a new, strange, and dangerous alliance: the left allied with the extreme right. This alliance against the current Panamanian Government must be taken seriously. It can and must be broken. If the situation is clearly explained, the liberals will return to their previous stand.

The irony is that at the geopolitical level, Washington fails to see the obvious: Strategically, Panama is one of the three most important countries in the hemisphere, along with Mexico and Canada. El Salvador and Nicaragua are of secondary importance in maintaining the security of the Mexican border and keeping the canal open. In spite of this, Mexico and Panama are taken for granted and viewed in such two-dimensional, ideological terms that the extra effort required to ensure that they maintain a politically and economically viable life is not being made. Millions of dollars in aid are being spread in Central America while complaints by Mexico and Panama are ignored.

In spite of the Reagan administration's ideological and historical dislike of the Panamanian Government, the administration, because of its rather well-established geopolitical objectives, has to make Panama "look like" a democracy, something it is not. THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES editorials on the resignation of [former Panamanian President Ardito] Barletta question the difference, in terms of democratic viability, between Panama and Nicaragua. This kind of attack harms the Reagan administration's claim that in waging war against Nicaragua, Angola, Afghanistan, and Kampuchea it is responding to a moral mandate. For example, in the battle at Congress to secure funds for the contras, the administration must argue that Nicaragua is the only nondemocratic government in the region. It must do that.

Unlike the Reagan administration's ideological and historical perceptions of Panama, the geopolitical concerns may be dealt with in time.

Current Policy

These underlying topics have shaped and continue to shape U.S. reaction to recent events in Panama. They help explain the rudeness of the response to Barletta's resignation and Spadafora's murder.

The Reagan administration's policy toward Panama is neither clear nor unified. Even though the Reagan administration denies this accusation, the lack of consistency in its actions support this claim.

There is no policy toward Panama partly because Panama is not a high priority on the agenda and because different U.S. agencies have different political goals. However, even though there is no consensus concerning what to do, there is consensus concerning what is happening in Panama. This consensus can be heard throughout the White House, Congress, CIA, and State and Defense Departments:

1. The Panamanian Government is inoperable.
2. Delvalle is a puppet of the FDP. He will never have credibility as a president.
3. Noriega directs the country. He is becoming more, not less, involved.
4. The FDP is corrupt and is losing touch with the people.
5. The left wing plays a very important role in Panama. It is gaining control at all government levels.
6. The FDP is very close to Castro and has disquieting commercial ties with the Cubans.

What Are the "Stick" and "Carrot" in the United States

What influence does the U.S. Government really have in Panama? How far is the United States willing to go in pursuing an unofficial policy? How much can it reward

the government for showing progress in issues of importance to the United States? Putting it simply: What is its system of reward and punishment?

Even if the Reagan administration were totally hostile toward Panama, what more could it do to demonstrate its dissatisfaction? It has already cut all aid down to the bone. If the United States continues its current course of action, it will cut aid even further—to demonstrate its dissatisfaction and because the pressure exerted by the current Graham-Rudman Act makes Panama an easy target for besieged budget directors. The U.S. Administration also has decided to spread the "bad" news about Panama to the media and the financial community. It has even gone out of its way to poison relations between Panama and the U.S. Congress.

However, the administration could take an even firmer stand. The situation may not become more critical in 1986. However, in the long run, the U.S. Administration could increase its pressure and seriously damage Panama, especially economically.

The Panamanian Government may have to face a harsh, aggressive destabilization campaign. This is currently not the case, but Washington may take action to increasingly aggravate Panama's domestic situation. On a short-term basis, the United States may make financing more difficult, exhaust investment sources, further restrict exports to the United States, etc. The United States also could more actively engage people in government or in the FDP to create domestic tension and paranoia.

However, it is the long-term damage by the United States that poses the real threat to Panama. The Panamanian Government needs economic growth. Stability, foreign investment, access to U.S. markets, U.S. economic and military assistance, financing for a new canal cut, etc—all these factors are essential for Panama's economic growth. Anything the United States and the opposition might do to hamper or damage economic growth will damage the government's long-term position.

Of course, this type of policy is a two-way street. Just as the United States can make life difficult for Panama, Panama can make life difficult for the United States. Therefore, it would be senseless for the United States to adopt the policies that are being considered by some people in Washington.

There are very few short-term gains on the "carrot" or "reward" side of the equation. There is little potential for a large increase in aid, given the new budget realities that the U.S. Congress is facing. There is not much flexibility in commercial banks, especially because most are on the verge of bankruptcy. The areas in which the United States could be useful are two-sided. It could encourage or discourage investment in Panama. It could open new markets for Panamanian products. It could lessen its criticism of the Panamanian Government. It could achieve greater flexibility from the IMF and the World Bank. It could work more positively and more aggressively toward helping Panama with its studies on the canal and toward finding financial solutions to modernize the canal. It could reform part of the legislation affecting the canal.

The Panamanian Government must carry out efforts to improve understanding and relations with the U.S. Government, which would create a healthier environment in which to live. Better relations reduce external pressure, thus allowing the government to dedicate itself to the real domestic problems that must be resolved; otherwise, the government will weaken and eventually fall.

Everything possible must be done so the official U.S. and Panamanian spokesmen will help improve relations. There are no important reasons for bad relations. The problem is based on an erroneous U.S. perception, which can be corrected, and is not based on real political problems.

To develop a strategy concerning Washington, it is important for one to understand the different perspectives of the U.S. agencies.

The Role of the U.S. Embassy in Panama

Briggs' departure is a blessing. He is a good man and very respected in Washington, but relations with the general, the FDP, and the PRD are poor and impossible to improve. For example, in a recent meeting with U.S. congressmen, he openly attacked the FDP and the PRD, accusing them of being corrupt.

The information obtained by the embassy is not good. The information is influenced by the opposition and has an ideological tinge. Frankly, its level of understanding has shaken me. Unfortunately, the embassy reports are broadly circulated and have a great impact on the Reagan administration and Congress.

A lesson must be learned from the experience with Briggs. There is no way one can win a battle against an ambassador without having to pay a high price in Washington. When the new ambassador arrives in Panama, the government, especially the PRD and the FDP, must go out of their way to establish good relations, no matter how difficult the task.

The White House

Relations with the White House are poor. The White House's viewpoint is important, as is the viewpoint of the National Security Council (NSC), not only because it speaks most directly with the President and coordinates the policies among the agencies, but because it can go over the heads of the State Department, AID, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the current allocation of AID funds. If we are going to ensure increases in 1986 and 1987, we must win over the NSC.

The notions of the President about Panama are more difficult to interpret. It is true he met with Arnulfo Arias during the 1976 and 1980 presidential campaigns. We do not know to what extent they have remained in contact, but we do know Reagan is inclined to go against the current government. At issue is the extent of his knowledge and involvement. We do know that immediately after Barletta's resignation, Reagan spoke with Menges and instructed him to reinstate Barletta. This is now denied by the White House, but it is probably true.

It is assumed Vice President Bush's view is close to the NSC's, because many NSC personnel are loyal to him. Bush knows a lot about Panama, but he is not going to allow his knowledge to obstruct the road he must follow for the 1988 Presidential race. Bush must consolidate his positon with the Republican Party right, so he will take positions to please it regarding Central America and Panama. Bush is very intimate with the Cuban conservative community, and his policy toward Panama will be shaped from that perspective.

The State Department

The policy toward Panama is strongly delineated by Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, who is a favorite of Secretary Shultz and who has unusual strength in the U.S. media. Abrams is obsessed with Nicaragua. He visualizes all the Central American policy from that standpoint. He is an ideological fanatic.

Abrams has also been heavily influenced by his experience as assistant secretary for human rights. He is knowledgeable about human rights and is sensitive to those topics, especially in the cases in which leftist or center-left governments are involved.

Abrams is not a friend of the current government. More than any other member of the U.S. Government, he has a vision of the world that makes an understanding or a favorable view of Panama impossible. He is a conservative Democrat of the old Jackson wing. He and Richard Perle, at the Department of Defense [DOD], worked on Jackson's staff. They are soldiers of the same antileft crusade.

The real question is: What is he willing to do to achieve his goals?

Abrams is not a Jesse Helms. Despite his strong opinions, he is responsible and realistic. It is true he would prefer to see a different government in power in Panama, but apart from making difficult any guarantee of material assistance or verbally, he would probably not be recklessly foolish, unless he is given a better opportunity. [sentence as published]

The State Department's human rights division might be more problematic from the standpoint of public relations. Although it is not as bad as expected, the report issued on 13 February 1986 (1985 Report on Human Rights) is not good for Panama. Although some in Congress have already expressed their concern over the double standard used by the administration against leftist and rightist nations, this report wil be used as a weapon by Panama's enemies in the media and as grounds in Congress to cut future aid. It could also be the basis for holding very embarrassing hearings on Spadafora's assassination.

AID

Graham-Rudman reductions for 1986 and the estimated cuts in the entire 1987 foreign aid budget (amounting to 30-50 percent) have placed AID under terrible budget pressures. All the foreign aid, except that to Egypt and Israel, will be reduced. AID's problems will increase in Central America, where the President will request reductions in the general budget while asking for increases for the contras and the nations bordering Nicaragua.

Given this setting, when even those loved by the administration are experiencing difficulties in maintaining their funds, Panama is in big trouble. Each negative cable sent by the AID director in Panama and Ambassador Briggs, harms Panama's fight for more money. As an NSC member told us, each time there is a budget meeting and another $1 million is needed, the unanimous reply from around the table is "take it out of Panama."

The other factor that works against Panama in fiscal 1986 and 1987 is that the most important budget decisions were made when it looked like Panama would not approve the package of economic reforms. When the package is in place, there will be grounds to fight for more funds.

The DOD and the CIA

The DOD, CIA, and Southern Command are Panama's natural allies. However, there is too much confidence in them.

It is always in the DOD's and CIA's interests to get along well with the status quo in the countries that have close ties with the United States. The CIA likes to work with the current structure because it obtains important intelligence material and can use Panama as an operations base. The DOD likes to work with the FDP because they know each other, share a military culture and a modus operandi, and would get nervous with any change that would place in doubt that professional relationship.

The DOD and the CIA have influence in Washington, but they are not as strong as Panama believes. The CIA has a limited influence in Congress and will be of no help. Casey does not have much respect for Congress. The DOD has too many battles in the administration and Congress about its budget to risk its neck for Panama.

It must also be realized that although the CIA and the DOD provide political support, they very pleasingly support the criticism that almost unanimously is being made against the FDP and the PRD concerning charges of corruption, leftist leanings, and inefficiency. It would help to emphasize to U.S. policymakers that no one in the opposition represents an improvement or is capable of governing. This would help. However, this alone does not give Panama the initiative and may provide a support that could suddenly disappear.

The DEA

This is the oddest of all Washington agencies. It lives in a world of secrets and rumors. There is never any certainty it will be consistent on any issue.

Although the DEA drafts beautiful letters and congratulates the FDP for its assistance in the drug enforcement struggle, the DEA also serves Senator Helms and his staff as a permanent source of information harmful to Panama. In negotiating with the DEA, it is important to have the DEA provide more detailed information about how Panama is cooperating and how that cooperation compares with that provided by other countries. This must be insisted upon.

Charges of drug trafficking by the FDP and Noriega are commonplace in Washington. If such charges are challenged, the answer is "we know; we believe," but no one comes through with any evidence. These types of charges, which have been made since 1968, are harmful and frustrating. These charges must be tackled point by point to fight them and to defend the reputation of the FDP and its leaders. There is no other way. The DEA must contribute to this effort if it wants Panama's cooperation.

The Treasury Department

The Treasury Department has been useful in recent negotiations with the World Bank. The Treasury Department has noticed the destabilizing effect of the flight of $30 billion out of Panama and wants current negotiations to succeed, because it wants the economy to grow. However, this department supports the reforms outlined by AID and the World Bank. It believes these reforms will help Panama improve its economic potential and that Panama is in such great need for funds that the moment has arrived for making greater reforms.

The other subject that concerns the Treasury Department is the Panamanian banking system. The department is concerned over money-laundering operations and will push further for reforms that could eliminate that activity. This subject will take [sentence inconclusive as published].

The Panama Canal Commission [PCC]

It is interesting to see how much harmful information is provided by PCC personnel to the U.S. Congress. Members of the PCC and of congressional committees talk to each other daily. The reports are usually not good. It is rare that they discuss anything positive.

The PCC must be regarded as another important news vehicle, as should be the embassy and the Southern Command. A strategy to improve the handling of that group must be devised.

The Congress

No foreign government understands the power the U.S. Congress has in preparing U.S. foreign policy. Foreign governments can understand concepts, but only a well-experienced player of Washington's game can fully understand the tremendous power of the U.S. Congress.

The Panamanian Government has special knowledge of the U.S. Congress' power because of the debates on the Panama Canal treaties. The Panamanian Government waged a brilliant battle to obtain the ratification of the treaties but has done very little since then. Panama has a difficult year ahead regarding Congress. In fact, most of the problems between Panama and Washington will originate in Congress. Democrats and Republicans will be equally hostile toward Panama. You must bear in mind that congressmen are more dangerous than the people of the [sentence inconclusive as published].

Congress will hold discussions on Panama. The Panamanian opposition is pressing for that. Congressmen Richards [not further identified] could request debates in the human rights subcommittee, and there are rumors of debates in the foreign relations subcommittee. Those debates must be carefully handled by the government.

Panama's major problem with the U.S. Congress is that there are many Congress subcommittees handling the issues linked to Panama. Following up on all those issues is a difficult task. A special effort must be made to follow up on the important issues and change the general U.S. Congress view of Panama.

The Press

During the last 3 years, the press has treated Panama terribly. The coverage has been negative, prejudiced, and disinformed. Noriega has been the target of much of that bad publicity, because he is an attractive target, a stereotype for the U.S. press.

THE MIAMI HERALD set up the fire. Bobby Eisemann and LA PRENSA added fuel to the fire. The rest of the media just spread the fire.

Changing images in the press takes time. There is a great deal of frustration about the press within the FDP and the National Democratic Union. The government wants to see a change now, but any experienced journalist would tell the Panamanian Government a change in the tone of the press coverage does not happen overnight. A lot of work must be done for that change to occur. That change will not occur unless the Panamanian Government presents a new attitude, an open attitude toward the press.

The opposition is aware of the importance of the foreign press and centers on it. Its relationship with the press is its number one weapon. The opposition knows how to prepare a good story and how to sell it to the press. It knows how important it is to maintain personal relations with press members, so it cultivates those relations. The opposition knows how to handle prejudices.

Torrijos also learned to deal with reporters. He was a professional. He dedicated time to develop his relations with the press. The current Panamanian Government does not understand the game with the press.

The government must go out of its way to develop its relations with the press and sell its versions. In the process, the government will be hit, betrayed, and humiliated, but the first few articles must not discourage its efforts. The government must take those articles as the daily price paid for giving itself a new image. In any event, what can the foreign press write that's worse now?

There are two problems with the foreign press: First, the foreign press has difficulties interviewing the right people in Panama. Second, when reporters do interview government leaders, there is no clear and defined topics. During the interviews, the government's spokesmen answer questions with reservations. They do not develop topics or send any specific messages. The government's spokesmen do not sell their versions as the opposition does. That is a mistake, because Panama has its version. There is no need to be on the defensive.
Sawyer-Miller
New York, 15 February 1986

[On page 17, the article is accompanied by a photocopy of two English-language documents described by a caption as "basic strategic plans that are being followed step by step, thoroughly, since 1986." The following is taken from the Spanish translation of these documents, which appears on page 16]

DOMESTIC STRATEGY

Opposition's Domestic Strategy

1. Do not let Delvalle establish himself as a leader. Make him look like a "puppet." Get him to resign before 1989. Prove democracy is a sham.

2. Keep focus on the FDP. Hold them responsible for Panama's problems.

3. Create "uncertainty." Feed speculation on the struggle for power within the FDP, coups, bank failures, etc.

4. Keep the economy weak. Fight any public or private effort to improve it. The electorate must believe their jobs are threatened and that the causes of the economic crisis are corruption, military spending, and inefficiency.

5. Build an alliance with the Catholic Church. Have the Catholic Church play the same role it is playing in the Philippines. Use the Catholic Church to build a low-income electorate base to obtain a "moral imperative."

6. Hope the Spadafora case is never resolved. Pray another incident occurs to increase the government's image of brutality and toughness.

7. Unite the opposition. Find a new unifying presidential candidate whose appeal to voters is greater than Arnulfo Arias.

8. Try to force presidential elections before 1989.

9. Plan an "independent" election-monitoring operation, like "Manfrel" in the Philippines, to monitor the upcoming elections.

10. Use the relationship with the U.S. Embassy to give credibility to the campaign against the government.

STRATEGY IN THE UNITED STATES

Opposition's International Strategy

1. Keep the Spadafora case alive in the U.S. press and government. Try to get congressional hearings and reports by the U.S. State Department and keep international human rights groups informed to maintain the issue in the public's mind.

2. Create an image of instability and incompetence in the Panamanian Government. "Delvalle is a puppet who will not last long." "The Panamanian Government does not work."

3. Strive to stop, delay, and reduce loans, grants, or investments. Destabilize the economy.

4. Convince the U.S. right that the FDP and the PRD are leftists: "Panama cannot be the next Nicaragua."

5. Convince U.S. liberals that the Panamanian Government cannot be democratic and that the FDP rules Panama. The FDP is corrupt, immoral, and a "mafia" that will follow in Marcos' and Somoza's footsteps. U.S. action is needed to keep the FDP in its barracks. To be credible, liberals need to be as rude with the Panamanian "left of center" as they are with right-wing governments.

6. Force the United States to adopt an increasingly tough stance against Panama. Unite liberals and conservatives on the offensive against the FDP. Maintain Noriega as the target. Turn Panama into the next Philippines.

7. Work with the international community to establish an elections-monitoring mechanism for the next elections in Panama. Make it impossible for the government "to steal" the next elections.

FDP Temporarily Detains U.S. Soldiers

PA2804002489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2322 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] U.S. Southern Command military authorities were detained today by members of the Panama Defense Forces. The incident occurred this morning near El Dorado Mall when the U.S. officers traveling in a U.S. Armed Forces vehicle were intercepted by FDP members.

[Unidentified U.S. soldier] "I was on my way to take a look at the highway supposedly being built between Cerro Patacon and the Transisthmian Highway. The official car came up behind me and put on its sirens to stop me. I pulled over into this lane, and he pulled across in front and hit the car. We are here trying to solve the problem; we have the right to go to various places when we are on official business."

FDP Captain Moises Cortizo eventually went to the site of the incident to talk with the U.S. authorities:

[Cortizo] "In Panama, when an FDP member calls on them to halt, they must do so.

[Unidentified U.S. officer in English, in progress] "...the laws of Panama, particularly the traffic laws.

[Cortizo] "We have treaties that have to be honored by both sides, not just by us."

Newspaper Reports U.S. AWACS Overflight

PA2804010189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] An AWACS airplane used by the Americans for electronic espionage flew over our territory on 22 and 23 April in an open act of aggression against our sovereignty.

This incident shows that the United States is continuing its aggressive policy against Panama and is using warmongering tactics against an independent state.

It is important to note that the AWACS airplane that has overflown the country is similar to those used by the United States in the days prior to the invasion of Grenada and to the bombing of several targets in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, Libya.

The AWACS is so sophisticated that it can even detect a cigarette butt, which means that its incursion into our airspace portends disaster.

It should be noted that the Americans assumed the right to invade Grenada on 25 October 1983. Americans and Grenadians died in that action, in addition to Maurice Bishop, prime minister of that Caribbean nation.

In addition to causing other deaths and damage in the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi on 14 April 1986, the Americans killed Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's young daughter.

ADOC Youth Supporters Stage March, Rally

PA2804033889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The young supporters of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] this afternoon staged a large march—a motorcade that began at Manuel Espinosa Batista Avenue, traveled up Ricardo J. Alfaro Avenue, also known as Tumba Muerto, and ended at Los Libertadores residential area where a rally was held. Many youths peacefully and civilly participated in the march, waving flags of the ADOC parties and shouting antigovernment slogans. Once they reached Los Libertadores, the rally began with various speakers, including Eduardo Quiros and Marco Ameglio, legislator candidates of the Authentic Liberal Party.

[Begin recording] [Quiros] Panamanian youths will not permit the postponement or suspension of the elections. We will not allow that. [applause] We will not allow the Panamanian people's will to be mocked.

[Ameglio] With all the strength God has given us, we must say we youths are the strength of the change that must take place. [applause].

[Guillermo Ford, ADOC second vice presidential candidate] You have walked 5 km today, from one campus to another. We will walk with you, together, to victory on 7 May. [applause] We will not fall into provocations, but we will not be cowards. Justice will prevail here.

[Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC first vice presidential candidate] I want to shout today my cry of struggle as I stand before the Panamanian youth. I have spent my life working with you in the university classrooms, both at the National University and the Catholic University. I cherish the memories and promises of thousands of Panamanian youths who are not only the future of the fatherland, but their own future, which is why you are here today. [end recording]

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0115 GMT on 28 April reports three foreign press photographers were "attacked" by demonstrators when the photographers tried to take pictures of them beating an unidentified individual who was throwing water bags at the demonstrators.]

Transportation Sector Participates

PA2804040789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Panamanian transportation sector has once again shown its support for the revolutionary process, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, candidates, headed by Carlos Duque Jaen.

This morning the members of the transportation sector took over Panama City's main streets in a large motorcade in which thousands of buses, taxis, and school buses participated. The vehicles honked their horns as a foretaste of COLINA's triumph in the 7 May general elections.

The motorcade began near the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium, although in view of the many vehicles participating it actually left from the Chanis neighborhood and continued along Via Espana. That gigantic expression of support for the FDP and COLINA's presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen was organized by the Union of Taxi Drivers, Unicontax, the Union of Public Transportation Drivers, Sicotracs, the National Federation of Taxi Cooperatives, Fenacota, the Union of School Transportation Drivers, and the Colon-Panama Transportation Union, Utracolpa.

A festive atmosphere surrounded the entire motorcade and the drivers decorated their vehicles with COLINA flags and posters.

As the motorcade proceeded, thousands of drivers from various parts of the country and Panama City joined the motorcade, which went along Via Espana, Central Avenue, and Avenue B, passed by the FDP headquarters, and ended up at the Albrook Field hangar.

The motorcade stopped in front of the FDP headquarters to say hello to Gen Noriega and his General Staff. From the main stairs of the FDP Headquarters, Gen Noriega accepted the driver's greetings.

A delegation representing the drivers entered the FDP Headquarters and went up to the main stairs to confirm their support for Gen Noriega and the FDP:

[Begin unidentified driver recording] Here are our tools, commander. We are at your service for any problem the homeland may have to face. Not one step backward. [Crowd shouts: "Not one step backward"] We want the opposition to know that we are here without any conditions. Bus drivers and owners are paying for this motorcade. No one is paying anything for us to be here. Our presence here comes from our convictions and our hearts, because we are positive Panamanians. [end recording]

After their stop at the FDP Headquarters, the COLINA motorcade headed toward the reverted area of Albrook Field, where friends and supporters of the FDP and the COLINA parties expressed their satisfaction with the motorcade.

Endara Says Regime 'Betrays Fatherland'

PA2704150689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Speech by Guillermo Endara, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, presidential candidate; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: This evening I address you on behalf of ADOC and as ADOC's presidential candidate, having with me my companions on the slate. With shameful cynicism, the spokesman for the dictatorship, who has usurped the title of president of the Republic, has again made slanderous charges of treason against those who struggle for liberty, justice, and democracy in our fatherland. He did this in front of the dictator and his subordinates.

The shameful television spectacle mounted to do this is a result of the regime's desperation in view of the massive support the Panamanian people have given the ADOC presidential slate. Its objective was to demonstrate—in shameful violation of the Constitution—the government's tendentious position in favor of the government's candidate, whose record is so dirty that it constitutes a threat to national dignity. His objective was also to divert national and international attention from the preparations for election fraud. That same day, a step was taken in that direction with the appointment of people to the national vote-counting board who are completely loyal to the interests of the dictatorship.

Who are the ones betraying the fatherland? Those whom the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have accused of having seriously and on many occasions violated rights, those who have been accused by courts of justice and by the international media of complicity in international crimes, those who, on 9 January of a certain year, agreed to carry out joint operations with the U.S. Army. We commemorate the anniversary of the death of national martyrs on 9 January. The traitors are those who have sent to the U.S. Southern Command chief a memorandum explaining the dismissal of a Panamanian president, those who have produced the worst social, economic, political, and moral crisis in our history.

He who now serves as a spokesman for the dictatorship, after having fought it for over 16 years, is betraying the fatherland; he who has turned his back on past struggles in order now to satisfy the frustrated appetites for wealth and power, he who has demonstrated servile cynicism by lying and slandering, he who violates the Constitution and the Electoral Code daily and who has threatened his adversaries with elimination—he is the one betraying the fatherland.

For decades, the current regime sought and secured hundreds of millions of dollars from the U.S. Government in the form of loans and donations that it later squandered in fraudulent and irresponsible ways, causing national bankruptcy. The regime has recently received millions of dollars from Libya, and arms and advisers from Cuba. It has led the Social Security Bank and the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] to the brink of bankruptcy because of political abuses and corruption. The regime has paid the 13th-month bonus with IOU's in order to finance the government candidates' campaign with public funds. This kind of regime betrays the fatherland.

Regarding newspaper articles on which the dictatorship has based its recent accusations, we know of no secret decisions made by foreign governments concerning Panama. Our campaign has been financed by Panamanian sources, which have made great sacrifices to support our struggle for liberty, justice, and democracy, despite the crisis created by the dictatorship. Thousands of Panamanians have made contributions in terms of cash, goods, and time, and we wholeheartedly thank them for that. Our people know that we do not incur large travel expenses because the crowds spontaneously go to our rallies and because the dictatorship has arbitrarily prohibited us from renting public vehicles to transport our sympathizers. Our people know that we do not spend large amounts on propaganda because the people are already on our side and because the dictatorship has closed many media sources and is threatening others. We do not possess any sophisticated communications equipment such as that which a recently arrested foreign citizen allegedly had in his possession.

ADOC's campaign has few resources as its disposal, but it is a campaign that involves many people, who conscientiously and voluntarily participate to save our fatherland from the worst regime in Panamanian history. Our expenditures contrast with the scandalous squandering of resources in our adversaries' campaign. Their campaign, according to the 5 April declaration of the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, has been characterized by the following and I quote: We have to state that in violation of constitutional and legal norms, public employees and resources are being used to support parties. As we have said on other occasions, the existence of closed media, biased courts of justice, exiled citizens, and political prisoners, and the control of and pressure on public employees do not favor conditions of equality and liberty that must serve as a framework for the elections, end quote.

The dictatorship's campaign is based on corruption and repression. It includes election crimes, criminal activities, and violations of human rights and constitutional guarantees. It is a campaign that perverts honesty and patriotism. This type of campaign civically and morally disqualifies those who are responsible for it.

Because of all this, we are certain that our fellow countrymen will reject the farce, the infamy, and the circus that the dictatorship has mounted. We reaffirm our commitment to an election struggle against the regime, certain that we will drown them with votes on 7 May. This way we will close the darkest and saddest chapter in our history and open a new era of liberty, justice, and democracy, with the resultant recovery of national dignity. Then the fatherland will belong to all Panamanians, and we Panamanians will be able to feel like brothers. Each of you, fellow countrymen, must know the location of your polling station and vote for the dignity of the fatherland, that is, for the opposition.

COLINA Candidate Wants 'Campaign in Peace'

PA2804042189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Statement by Ramon Sieiro, National Liberation Coalition first vice presidential candidate; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] We want to take this opportunity to ask COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] members as well as ADOC members to continue the example we are setting for the world as we campaign in peace in this country. Let there not be violence in the 8 or 10 days left in this campaign. We hope the campaign will culminate in family unity, and that he who is defeated and does not obtain the majority of the votes will, in fact, admit defeat and join the winners so we can all, once and for all, continue the work of the Panamanian state and continue taking care of the Panamanian people's needs.

As a matter of principle, we, the members of PALA [Labor Party], do not believe in violence as part of a political campaign. We are the party of dialogue, and we believe that through dialogue we can solve all the problems affecting the parties in this campaign. Polls indicate that the majority of Panamanian voters will vote for COLINA and our president, Carlos Duque Jaen, as he is the person who can bring together all the groups in our country. He can continue the process of change that began in 1968.

We will call on all groups so they will form part of the new government that will serve as a guide to the year 1999.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UN Meeting

PA2804000389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2318 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter traveled to the United States this afternoon. He is going to the United Nations to denounce—to the UN Security Council and the OAS—current U.S. policy against Panama.

Before departing, Foreign Minister Ritter said:

[Begin Ritter recording] International organizations must be aware of what is happening in Panama. We will notify them that the excessive U.S. interference in Panama could disrupt the Panamanian elections. We will warn those organizations, especially the Security Council, that international peace and security are being threatened when a nation interferes in another nation's affairs, as the United States is doing in Panama.

The United States is unnecessarily deploying military forces in Panama and is illegally flying over our territory. The United States recently gave money to support the campaign of one of the two, I mean three, groups participating in the elections. Part of that money was not only destined for the campaign, but also to destabilize the country.

Multilateral organizations such as the UN Security Council are created and intended for countries to report such actions. That is why we are resorting to the UN Security Council. [end recording]

Government To Strengthen Relations With ROC

OW2804002189 Taipei CNA in English 1521 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, April 27 (CNA)—Panamanian Minister of Economic Planning and Policy, Gustavo Gonzalez, said Wednesday the Central American nation treasures its friendly relations with the Republic of China [ROC] and will try to further strengthen trade ties between the two countries.

Gonzalez made the remarks when receiving a mission of the ROC's International Economic Cooperation and Development Fund. The Taipei-based organization aims to help developing countries develop their economies through loans, investments and technical assistance.

The minister said he appreciated the ROC's decision to develop an export processing zone in Panama. "The interest that the ROC has shown in Panama is very important and we are extremely grateful for the ROC's friendship," he noted, adding that the export zone project is going to change Panama.

He said that his country welcomes investments from the ROC especially at a time when Panama's economy is in a difficult situation.

The ROC mission, led by Lin Nengchung, deputy director of the Economics Ministry's International Cooperation Department, arrived in Panama Sunday to collect information on the nation's economic situation.

During the meeting, Lin Nengchung explained the objective of the International Economic Cooperation and Development Fund and the process of its application. He said that the ROC is willing to share its developmental experience with Panama.

Earlier in the day, the mission also paid a courtesy call on Panamanian foreign minister.

The mission will leave Thursday for Costa Rica to continue their Central American tour.

Argentina

Alfonsin Calls Political Summit for 28 Apr

PY2804022589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight confirmed that President Alfonsin will meet tomorrow with the presidents of all parties represented in Congress. During the meeting, which will be held at Government House, Alfonsin will brief them on the economic measures designed to promote economic stabilization.

Lopez said Alfonsin instructed Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia to make the appropriate invitations, which will also "be extended to the respective presidential candidates in the upcoming election."

Asked if a joint statement will be signed, Lopez said that "it will be better if that decision is reached through dialogue and agreement."

Lopez added that President Alfonsin also gave instructions to Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli to call a meeting of union leaders. This meeting will also be held at Government House, possibly tomorrow.

Central Bank Orders Bank Holiday 28 Apr

PY2804013689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (DYN)—The Central Bank tonight ordered a money exchange and bank holiday for 28 April, it has been officially reported.

The Central Bank president and board members will hold a news conference in a few minutes to report on this decision and to announce the implementation of new financial measures.

Closure Order Confirmed

PY2804032489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0206 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM)—Central Bank Vice President Roberto Eilbaun confirmed tonight there will be a money exchange and bank holiday tomorrow "because of delays in the supply of paper for the printing of money and because of labor conflicts at the mint."

Eilbaun said that banks will pay pensions and salaries to public and private sectors but only to those institutions with which the bank has signed agreements.

Businessmen To Support Stabilization Program

PY2704133589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0334 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (EFE)—It was reported today that the Argentine Government will "immediately" launch a new "economic stabilization" program. This program has the support of the country's main business organizations. It will be submitted to Congress for its approval.

The announcement was made by Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, who said that within the framework of a "political consensus," we will seek "congressional support for decisions that must be adopted for the recovery of the economic stability."

Lopez met the press at the Olivos presidential residence after a meeting which Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese held with a group of businessmen.

Alfonsin received in his office the so-called "group of eight," which is made up among other organizations of the Rural Society, the Industrial Union, the Argentine Construction Chamber (CAC), the Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Argentine Banks, and the Commodity Exchange.

Richard Handley, president of the Association of Argentine Banks, stated that "the implementation of a stabilization program, with the consent of political parties and congress approval, will facilitate the negotiation of the foreign debt."

Government sources have predicted an inflation rate of almost 30 percent for April, while the monthly interest rates have surpassed 125 percent and the dollar-exchange rate remains high. At the closing of the exchange operations today, the dollar exchange rate was 83 australes.

Cold Nuclear Fusion Repeated in Bariloche

PY2704154989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1244 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 27 Apr (TELAM)—A group of scientists from the Bariloche Atomic Center [Centro Atomico Bariloche] (CAB) has managed to reproduce the "electromechanically induced cold nuclear fusion method." This experiment was carried out recently by two foreign researchers: One British and one U.S. scientist. They also developed a new experimental technique which allows the fusion process to be controlled and repeatedly measured. [sentence as received]

It has been unofficially learned that Rolando Granada and Jose Converti, scientists responsible for the CAB Neutrons, Reactors, and Thermohydraulical Department, participated in this experiment. They were accompanied by Roberto Mayer and Engineers German Guido, Pablo Florido, and Nestor Patino, and by a large group of students and engineers of the nuclear sector.

These scientists, motivated by the expectation that "cold nuclear fusion could mark the beginning of a new era," met for the first time on 6 April, with only a brief report which they received from the United States. They obtained the first considerable results on Sunday, 23 April, and repeated the experiments on the following days. The official report on the results of that experiment will be released within the next few hours.

Bolivia

Navy Commander Contests Need for Foreign Troops

PY2704134789 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Apr 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Navy Commander Alberto Saenz Klinski stated yesterday that the participation of foreign troops in the struggle against drug trafficking is not necessary because the operations are being conducted quite effectively by Bolivian personnel.

The Navy commander visited President Victor Paz Estenssoro at the Government Palace to invite him to participate in the celebrations of the Navy's 26th anniversary next week.

"I see no need for the participation of foreign troops in the struggle against drug trafficking, because it is controlled by specialized Bolivian forces," he said.

According to foreign press reports, U.S. Ambassador to La Paz Robert Gelbard had suggested in Washington that Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents, who are working in Bolivia in the struggle against drugs, be replaced by specialized U.S. Armed Forces troops.

The Bolivian Government explained that it did not request the support of foreign troops in the struggle against drug trafficking and expressed its decision to continue fighting the drug groups with specialized Bolivian personnel.

Saenz Klinski praised the work of the specialized Bolivian forces in the struggle against drug trafficking, and voiced his disagreement with a possible participation of foreign troops. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Comments on Drug Fight

PY2704225589 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 6

[Text] Interior Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran yesterday said that no help will be sufficient to put an end to the scourge of drug trafficking which deals with almost $4 billion.

Minister Perez explained that the DEA's task is to effectively support the work of the national forces that fight drug trafficking.

Regarding the "alleged" comments made by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Robert Gelbard that his government replace the DEA with forces specialized in fighting drug trafficking, Minister Perez said the U.S. Embassy had already clarified the matter.

The minister said Ambassador Gelbard's statements were misunderstood because the Bolivian people and government never made such a request.

The minister added: "We have been very clear that the government has never made such a request. Very much the opposite. We have repeatedly told the U.S. Government that we have our own laws, that we have our own Armed Forces, and that the Armed Forces' role and objectives are clearly established in our laws. Our Joint Task Force, which fights drug trafficking in various parts of the country through great sacrifice, is a good example of our forces' role."

The minister stated that despite the economic difficulties the country is confronting and despite the fact that the country needs strong international support, Bolivian laws will be respected. He added that Bolivia does not need foreign troops to solve this, or for that matter, any other problem.

"I don't believe that the United States will think that the government's fight against drug trafficking has been unsuccessful," he said, adding that "this may be the result of a misunderstanding. A journalist at times misses a detail and makes a mistake. That is why I believe that journalists will most easily understand this situation."

He stated: "You, who cover government house affairs, know that all of the U.S. representatives who visited Bolivia and who had a chance to talk with President Paz Estenssoro have always expressed their satisfaction."

Coca Farmers Hold National Meeting

PY2704114689 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Cochabamba, 16 Apr (PRESENCIA)—Coca farmers of La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz have held their 5th National Meeting. They ratified their demand that the government comply with the joint agreement for the eradication and substitution of coca crops.

They said that they will not eradicate "a single coca plant" until the executive branch complies with the agreements. The coca farmers decided to create "self-defense committees, in places where they do not yet exist.

The coca farmers ratifed all the resolutions of their 4th National Meeting, especially the part concerning the peasants' participation in the Coca Crop Substitution and Development Plan (PIDYS).

In a seven-point document, coca growers' representatives from federations, trade union centrals, regional groups, and grass-roots organizations, rejected the crop "substitution" plan proposed by the U.S. Government through Law No 1008.

The coca growers reiterated their decision to oppose the implementation of the Agrarian Development Law, which allows the expropriation of land to prevent the cultivation of coca leaves and which "sponsors the penetration of capitalism."

In the political field, the coca farmers ratified their decision not to vote for either the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the Nationalist Democratic Action Party (ADN), or for the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

A document containing the conclusions of this coca growers congress will be delivered this week to the government by the National Coca Committee. This committee comprises representatives of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB), and the Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Settlers [Confederacion Sindical de Colonizadores de Bolivia—CSCB].

The coca growers have said that if the executive branch does not meet their demands they will "interrupt" the talks and negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the problems of their sector, which seeks "an authentic substitution."

The 5th National Meeting of coca growers took place in this city on 13 and 14 April.

Minister Rejects Coca Eradication by Force

PY2704182389 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
19 Apr 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Jose Guillermo Justiniano said yesterday that "even if the Coca Crop Substitution and Development Plan (PIDYS) does not operate in the future, the government will not eradicate coca by force."

Referring to an accusation made by Deputy Roger Cortez, the minister denied that the government has reached an agreement with the U.S. Government to eradicate coca by force.

He said that the "Bolivian model" is based on the voluntary substitution of coca through the implementation of a rural development program with the participation of peasants under the coordination of the PIDYS.

The minister emphasized that the quick and cheap method of using force against peasants will not be implemented by any of the parties that may run the government after the elections because this is prohibited under the Law of Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances.

Justiniano added that if no agreement is reached between coca growers and the government for the profitable production of other products, and if coca growing and cocaine production continue, then the pressure from the international community will be unbearable and the theory of a quick eradication by force may prevail.

Justiniano explained that eradication by force will only be used on zones outside Chapare and Yungas or when a cocaine base factory is found. In this case the land will be expropriated and the coca destroyed.

He also emphasized that the use of force should not be confused with the coca substitution program. [passage omitted]

Support Given To Government Party Candidate

PY2704144489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
18 Apr 89 p 5

[Summary] According to an agreement signed in La Paz, the Santa Cruz Regional Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement (MRTPL), led by Deputy Victor Hugo Cardenas, has decided to support the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. They have made this decision because Sanchez de Lozada represents the "only guarantee for economic, social, and political stability, and the consolidation of democracy." The agreement was signed by former Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran representing the MNR, and by Miguel Santos, Clovis Mendoza, and Jorge Ticona representing the MRKL.

Surveys Show Banzer as Favorite for Elections

PY2704210089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
23 Apr 89 p 1

[Summary] Polls conducted in Bolivia by specialized enterprises, communication media, organizations, and even some embassies invariably show that Hugo Banzer Suarez, the ADN [National Democratic Association]

candidate for the May presidential elections is the favorite. He is followed by the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] candidates, who are vying for second place.

The CIOP [expansion unknown] enterprise, which reports having branches in Mexico, Bogota, and Buenos Aires, conducted a nationwide poll showing that the presidential candidate of the ADN has the support of 31.2 percent of the people; the MIR candidate, 21.5 percent; and the MNR candidate, 20.5 percent. According to the same poll, the ADN is likely to send 50 deputies and 16 senators to the new Congress; the MIR, 34 deputies and 6 senators; and the MNR, 34 deputies and 5 senators.

Brazil

Troops Offered to Governors To Combat Strikes

PY2804002989 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro, Justice Minister Oscar Diaz Correa has offered state governments the support of Army, Navy, and Air Force troops to stop possible disturbances caused by strikes.

Here is a report from Rio de Janeiro by Alana Gandara.

In Rio de Janeiro, Justice Minister Oscar Diaz Correa has confirmed that the Federal Government is willing to help the governors in their struggle against strikes in order to guarantee that normal activities can take place. If necessary, this help will involve Army, Navy, and Air Force troops.

[Begin Dias recording, in progress] [Words indistinct] that the state governments could ask for help, the Federal Government will provide this help to protect the citizens' rights, to guarantee public order, and to protect public and private property. This help will be provided by the Federal Police and by Army, Navy, and Air Force troops [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Oscar Diaz Correa regretted the growing number of strikes in the country. He attibuted those strikes to many people who are interested in disharmony and in disorder [word indistinct] against the country's tranquillity.

President Sarney Addresses Nation on Strikes

PY2804022289 Rio de Juneiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2244 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Speech by President Jose Sarney on 27 April; place not given—recorded. All figures as heard]

[Text] Brazilians: This speech has no special implications; it is merely a dialogue between the president and the people about our problems. Everyone knows that my major objectives have always been democracy, the transition to freedom, and the enforcement and consolidation of the state of law, which, as I have always said, signifies the rule of law and not the rule of men.

Yet I have always thought that this period would be difficult and that the passionate electoral struggle for the Presidency would undoubtedly aggravate our problems.

During my term in office, I have had to confront several destabilization attempts. I would like to discuss one type of destabilization attempt: The violent strikes that have been called, not to uphold social or labor rights but to benefit political groups who do not want to play by the rules of democracy and who do not respect the law.

I would like the people to know that during this period, I have had to cope with 8,790 strikes. Any country in the world, no matter how powerful, would be in serious truble if confronted with such a large number of strikes. This is in addition to all of the other problems which I have had to tackle.

I will show a table to all Brazilians. Before I assumed power, there were almost no strikes. In 1985, we had 1,289 strikes. In 1986, there were 2,282 strikes; in 1987, 2,313 strikes; in 1988, 2,241 strikes. In 1989, we have already had 1,288 strikes.

I have another table to show to the Brazilian people. In 1985, approximately 64 percent of the strikes were staged within the private sector, while only 35 percent were staged by public servants. The figures have changed, and now 40 percent of the strikes are staged within the private sector and 60 percent within the public sector.

What are the evil consequences of this fact for our country? Let us take a look at this graph. The Brazilian people should think about these figures.

In 1985, there were 48,812,484 man-days of strikes. There were 39,534,778 man-days of strike in 1986; 56,709,177 in 1987; and 54,475,180 in 1988. In the first quarter of 1989, we have had 9,562,887 man-days of strike.

If we add the figures of the past 4 years, we will find that we have had 209,094,806 man-days of strike. This shows the seriousness of the situation. I am not, however, condemning legitimate strikes. The right to strike is sacred and necessary. It is necessary because it helps to fight rampant capitalism, which is also a crime.

I am talking about the hooded people; about violence; about the occupation of factories; about the invasion of publicly- and privately-owned land; about those who loot property; and about the armed strikers who attack, break, stone, intimidate, and throw bombs. You should clearly realize the significance of all this.

I am not referring to workers. I am not referring to the strikes that were called to uphold legitimate rights.

I am talking about those who destroy vehicles, cause damage, violate the rights of those who want to work, threaten persons and families, and use violence in the name of the right to strike. Thus, those doing this are, in fact, destroying the right to strike because they are discrediting it. This, no doubt, is a disservice to the workers. Let us not forget that when we break the law we pave the way for power.

Brazilians, I have done, am doing, and will do my utmost to prevent the nation from experiencing a traumatic transition. We will not permit the creation of this type of instability in Brazilian society. The country does not tolerate this type of political action because it only leads to one thing—that is, chaos.

It is not possible for a country to routinely paralyze banks, schools, hospitals, transportation services, ports, universities, basic services, and—to our astonishment—even police protection. How can we admit that there is a way to paralyze Brazil? Brazil is too large to become strapped. What about the people? Will they remain unprotected against these acts, these offensive acts? The damage caused by these movements is tremendous. Who pays for this? The people. I recently heard a person proudly saying after a strike that the strike had caused Brazil to lose $1.6 billion. However, the Brazilian people are the ones paying for this because Brazil depends on its people.

We cannot permit democracy and liberty to be used for this type of practice. Democracy exists in Brazil so that no one will own anyone else's life and no one will be anyone else's master. The people did not merely want to change masters. In lieu of the state, the people got violent strikes. The people did not request the use of physical violence to prevent them from working. Democracy is not built upon offenses, threats, or fear. Democracy is built upon ideas, dialogue, understanding, and by legitimately gaining space.

Brazilians, I intended to send to congress a bill to regulate the right to strike as established by the new Constitution. Nonetheless, I must confess—and this perhaps is the greatest reason for my speech tonight—that the current situation and the need to guarantee public tranquillity have led me to draw up a temporary measure. The goal of this temporary measure is to prevent—due to a legal ommission—the situation from deteriorating, with serious risks for the nation. I also took up another measure to prevent speculation and the circumvention of price controls.

I signed a temporary measure to protect consumers, stop disobedience, permit serious punishment for abuses, and punish those who commit crimes against the popular economy.

Businessmen which are not patriotic are marking the rhythm of the crisis by adding to people's difficulties by forecasting and preparing for the worst possible conditions and the worst possible inflation. Everyone must contribute with maturity, understanding, and patriotism to defend the cause of Brazilian democracy. I have the duty to defend our people and our society. Brazilians reject the abuse, and the violation of their right to live in peace, and enjoy efficient public services, and their freedoms. The Brazilian people cannot be expected to tolerate all this deprivation because, I have said before, the violence is illegal. Tancredo Neves used to say: There are more efficient and democratic ways to defend workers rights than through strikes.

I will conclude with a word of assurance. No one will disturb our peace as long as I am here. I will order all the necessary measures to ensure that our country continues on the path of progress and development. It is my duty and I will see to it that it is fulfilled. Good night.

International Private Banks Release $575 Million

PY2704015689 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] International private banks have released $575 million, which make up the second part of an agreement on the Brazilian foreign debt.

Sergio Amaral, the Finance Ministry international affairs secretary, has just reported that this second part totals $600 million and that the remaining $25 million will be released over the next few days.

Amaral was interviewed by Brazilian reporter (Cristina Indes).

[Begin recording] [Amaral] Virtually all of the money has been released. A total of $575 million has been released.

Another $15 to $20 million will be released today and the remainder will be released over the next few days.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] How does it stand now? Will you begin to conduct negotiations to have the third part released?

[Amaral] We will soon begin to release the third part.

[Reporter] Does this mean that Brazil is receiving more than $600 million in cash today? Is this right?

[Amaral] Those $600 million, or, for the sake of accuracy, those $575 million are being deposited [Amaral changes thought] have already been deposited at the Central Bank. [end recording]

Trinidadian and Tobagan Foreign Minister Visits

PY2704233389 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Trinidadian and Tobagan Foreign Minister Sahadeo Basdeo today paid a courtesy visit to Federal Supreme Court President Jose Neri da Silveira. During his visit, the foreign minister talked about the good relationship currently existing between Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil.

Chile

Pinochet's Cabinet Resignation Request Evaluated

PY2704175489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0758 GMT 27 Apr 89

[By Fernando Rueda]

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (EFE)—Political observers believe that the unexpected call by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet last night for the resignation of his entire cabinet could mark the virtual end of the government talks with the opposition on the possible partial reform of the Constitution.

The announcement about the cabinet resignation requested by the president was made by acting Secretary General of the Government Colonel Jaime Garcia at the conclusion of a cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting, which was scheduled for 28 April, was presided over last night in La Moneda Palace by General Pinochet. No explanation was given why the meeting was brought forward.

Garcia said that Pinochet asked for the resignation of the ministers "to reshuffle the cabinet." He added, however, that this "does not necessarily mean" a stop to the government negotiations with opposition leaders seeking to reach agreement on possible constitutional reforms.

About 6 weeks ago, on 11 March, 73-year old President Pinochet announced his willingness to study some reforms to the 1980 Constitution. The opposition has been demanding these reforms.

On that occasion the president, who last October lost a plebiscite that could have kept him in the government for another 8 years, gave instructions to Interior Minister Carlos Caceres to contact "the democratic political parties" on the reforms that could be proposed to the government "as long as an agreement on this issue existed."

Pinochet had even given some indications on the issues that could be reformed. These include the opposition demands that include Article 8, which proscribes Marxist ideology, the mechanisms for constitutional reform, and the structure of the National Security Council.

That announcement made by Pinochet, who has been running the country for 15 years, was interpreted as a defeat for the most conservative sectors of the regime and a win for the "opening" theory sector which advocates dialogue with the opposition headed by Minister Caceres.

In the midst of the skepticism of some political sectors, Caceres began talks at the highest level with the three main political groups: The Coalition of Parties for Democracy, made up of 17 opposition center-right parties; the National Renewal Party (rightist but independent of the regime); and the Independent Democratic Union (rightist that supports Pinochet).

Some time after the talks to seek an agreement began, Finance Minister Hernan Buchi resigned on 3 April. This created a small cabinet crisis that was resolved 2 days later with the replacement of three ministers and the implicit confirmation of the group that advocates "agreement," headed by Caceres.

Buchi has been mentioned for several months as the possible presidential candidate of the government for the 14 December elections. Pinochet has repeatedly said he was not going to participate in these elections because, among other things, the Constitution does not allow them.

Only 24 hours ago, however, in a meeting with representatives of the Union of Independent Shanty Town Dwellers Pinochet said that he did not discard the possibility of his candidacy for the December elections.

"I am ready for anything" said Pinochet and added that his candidacy does not depend on him, but on his supporters.

Even though the progovernment forces have centered their support for the possible presidential candidacy on former Finance Minister Hernan Buchi, some local media have indicated that some sectors continue to insist on the need to have Pinochet as the presidential candidate.

Following cabinet resignation request, a television commentator indicated last night that the extreme right National Vanguard Movement plans to announce Pinochet's candidacy in a public rally in Copiapo, 800 km north of Santiago, on 29 April.

Pinochet Confirms Position

PY2704175689 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 89

[By Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today confirmed Interior Minister Carlos Caceres in his position, and accepted the resignation of two other ministers. The

information was reported by DINACOS [National Social Communications Agency] Director Miguel Angel Romero, who read an official communique on Pinochet's decision.

Pinochet has accepted the resignation of Education Minister Juan Antonio Guzman, and of Mining Minister Pablo Barahona Urzua. DINACOS Director Romero did not make any comment on whether the former mining minister will continue to be economy minister. Romero added that the new education and mining ministers' names will be announced later.

Interior Minister Comments

PY2804021589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has admitted that there have been some disagreements regarding constitutional matters within the cabinet. He also said that he tendered his resignation before the chief of state asked the ministers to submit their resignations.

During a brief conversation with journalists, Caceres referred among other things to the change that occurred yesterday afternoon and today.

[Begin recording] [Caceres] I think that this change is a normal process under way in the country. This is a process that we could refer to as a transition to full democracy. During this process, political activities cause situations that are sometimes unexpected. These situations lead to the adoption of decisions that are later evaluated.

The president has again asked for freedom of action, which means that the president analyzes the situation and the new circumstances, and, based on this evaluation, he takes the appropriate action—such as the decision he made today to reject the resignation of the majority of his ministerial cabinet.

[Reporter] But is it true that the ministers tendered their resignations yesterday at noon?

[Caceres] During yesterday's cabinet meeting, the president of the Republic, as you already know, commented on the interior minister's resignation and then he asked for freedom of action. [end recording]

Caceres reiterated that the new mining and education ministers will take the oath of office at La Moneda Palace tomorrow.

Central Labor Union Rally Authorized

PY2704140489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Brigadier General Carlos Carvallo, who is the Santiago mayor, has asked the CUT [Central Labor Union] to prohibit the participation of hooded or irresponsible people at its 1 May rally. He said that these people will only damage private residences.

Mayor Carvallo said that he has received a request from the CUT to hold a rally on 1 May. He added that the rally has been authorized.

The mayor added that he asked the CUT for a letter assuming responsibility for any damage which may occur, although he said that he is certain that the CUT will not pay for the damage.

Colombia

Venezuela Releases Peasants Seized After Raid

PA2804005189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Eleven of the 20 Colombian peasants who were arrested yesterday by the Venezuelan Army in the border town of (Vigilancia) were released tonight.

Nine other peasants still remain in the hands of the Venezuelan Army. They were arrested in connection with the attack by ELN [National Liberation Army] guerrillas on the (Mata del Coco) military post in Venezuela. A Venezuelan guardsman was killed and three others were wounded in the attack.

Those who were released said they had been mistreated by the Venezuelan Army and that two houses were burned down in the Colombian village of Vigilancia.

[Begin unidentified woman recording] The helicopter came at 0830. Twenty-five guardsmen descended from the helicopter. They burned down the [word indistinct] houses. They also burned down the huts owned by Mrs Elvira and Mr Cotamo. After they did this, they opened fire on us. We said: Kill us. What else could we do? They accused us of being guerrillas. Thank God we are not guerrillas. [end recording]

Paraguay

International Observers To Oversee Elections

PY2704192689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Apr 89 p 15

[Text] Over 100 international observers will be in Paraguay to oversee the 1 May elections.

The largest group of observers comprises representatives of the Paraguayan Institute for Latin American Integration [Instituto Paraguayo Para la Integracion de America

Latina]; and the International Secretariat of Jursits for Amnesty and Democracy in Paraguay [Secretariado Internacional de Juristas Para la Amnistia y la Democracia en el Paraguay] (IDIAL-SIJADEP).

The IDIAL-SIJADEP delegation is comprised of 30 people, among which are Marie Jo Soublet (French deputy for the Socialist Party); Camillo Zuccoli (European deputy for the Italian Republican Party); Horacio Ravenna (Argentine deputy for the Radical Civic Union); Luis Jose Martinez (Uruguayan deputy for the Blanco Party); Jose Diaz (Uruguayan deputy for the Broad Front); Tavare Viera (Uruguayan deputy for the Colorado Party); and Belisario Dos Santos (member of the Brazilian Bar Association).

Other members of the IDIAL-SIJADEP delegation are the following Brazilian deputies: Fernando Gasparian (of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party); Fabio Feldman (of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party) [as published]; and Workers Party leader Francisco Weffort.

The National Democratic Institute [Instituto Nacional Democratico], a member of the Liberal and Progressive International [Internacional Liberal y Progresista], will also send several observers. During its annual meeting in Copenhagen, this international organization decided to send a 16-member delegation of observers. It will be headed by former Spanish President Adolfo Suarez, who is the current leader of the Spanish Democratic and Social Center Party; and U.S. Representative Esteban Torres, Democrat from California.

There will also be 8 observers from the European Parliament; 4 observers from the Liberal International; 8 observers from the International Socialist; 7 observers from the Swedish Liberal Party [as published]; 11 observers from the Inter-American Center for the Assessment and Promotion of Elections [Centro Interamericano de Asesoria y Promocion Electoral]; and 7 observers from the Latin American Association for Human Rights.

The Humanist Ecologist Front will also send observers to the 1 May elections. Local Humanist Party leaders have reported that Luis Milani, Argentine candidate for deputy for the Green Humanist Front in the upcoming Argentine elections, will visit Paraguay. Milani will be accompanied by Rosario Aiello, of the Argentine Humanist Party; and by Griselda Carbonel, of the Argentine Green Party.

Peru

United Left Deputy Killed by Shining Path

PY2704170089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 27 Apr (TELAM-DPA)—United Left Deputy Heriberto Arroyo was killed today in Lima by unidentified persons.

Original reports state that Arroyo was shot by alleged members of the "Shining Path" terrorist group after he had taken his children to school.

Police Provide Details

PY2704221389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Apr 89

[News conference with National Police Director Fernando Reyes Roca by unidentified reporters, on 27 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reyes] The president of the Republic has requested that the National Police inform you of the attack on United Left Deputy Eriberto Arroyo Mio. According to initial reports, the attack took place today at 0745, when Arroyo was taking his children to the San Jose School, located on the corner of La Floresta and Las Dalias Streets, in Chaclacayo District. He was driving a Toyota, in which his wife and four children were seated. He dropped three children off at school, and was stopped in the car with his wife and smallest child when four individuals surrounded the car. One of the individuals shot Arroyo on his left side, killing him. Another bullet hit the left side of the car.

Arroyo was immediately taken to La Santa Clinic of Chaclacayo, but was announced dead on arrival. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you know who carried out the attack?

[Reyes] I cannot say, because we are still investigating into who carried out this attack, one we deeply regret because this man is a representative of the people. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What about the so-called Rodrigo Franco commando?

[Reyes] We know nothing, because no one has claimed responsibility for this attack so far. Yesterday in Congress, the interior minister denounced the existence of this Rodrigo Franco commando, and we are carrying out investigations to verify this. So far, the results of the investigations have been negative.

United Left Official Murdered in Cangallo

PY2704140889 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Deputy Guillermo Herrera has reported the murder of Benigno Ayala, secretary general of the United Left in Cangallo, Ayacucho Department, and of his wife and daughter.

Herrera added that they were murdered in cold blood in their house. He demanded an investigation to identify those responsible.

Government Defends Policies at Congress

PY2704180089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0816 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 27 Apr (EFE)—Last night, the Peruvian Government defended its policies in Congress, and denied that it was inefficient or faulty. The government answers to the 93 questions posed by the opposition did not, however, satisfy the opposition.

Peruvian Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo, Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez Albujar, and Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rivas Davila addressed the Congress.

Villanueva confirmed the existence of an antisubversive plan and said that the national economic reactivation "is being implemented." He also said that all President Alan Garcia properties were legally acquired.

Villanueva criticized the rightist sector for having personally "insulted" President Garcia, and the government in general. He added that if the rightist sector were to "unfortunately" win the upcoming general elections, "the country would return to barbarism."

Referring to the Shining Path guerrilla attack on a police post in the Uchiza jungle on 27 March—when 10 policemen were killed—Villanueva said that help could not be sent in time because of the bad weather in the region.

Commenting on the use of the chemical substance, known as Spike, to eradicate coca plantations, Villanueva said that this chemical will not be used, although it is being tested.

Villanueva said that he will not resign from his position. After ending his speech he suffered a blood pressure problem. Health Minister Luis Pinillo, who immediately assisted him, said that his blood pressure had gone up but it was back under control.

Villanueva then walked out of the Congress room and told the reporters that he was feeling well.

The defense minister said that, despite its handicaps, the Peruvian Air Force (FAP) has seized several small planes used by the Colombian drug trafficking gangs that were invading Peruvian airspace near the Colombian border.

Rivas Davila, who confirmed that the foreign reserves stand at $860 million, said that the government economic plan was yielding good results, that the balance of payment will improve, and that inflation will go down.

Deputies of the leftist and rightist sectors of the opposition have criticized the messages delivered by the three ministers. They said that Villanueva did not admit to the "failure of his antisubversive policy," and charged Rivas Davila with "excessive triumphalism."

They said that the economy minister was talking about "reactivation" when what really exists in the country is "recession, a paralyzed production sector, and hyperinflation."

The leftist and rightist sectors of the opposition have presented a censure motion, which will apparently not be accepted because the majority of the deputies have been elected by the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

The 1st day of congressional questioning was suspended until today. After the questioning of the 15 ministers, Congress will begin its debate. This will probably last until tomorrow.

Soviet Mission Arrives To Cancel Fishing Pact

PY2704133789 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] A Soviet delegation has arrived in Lima to discuss with the Peruvian Government the possibility of canceling the fishing agreement that was signed a few months ago.

Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria said that the cancellation of the agreement with the Soviet Union will hurt the supply of fish to the poor sectors of the country. He added that the Soviets who operate the fishing vessels in Peruvian waters feel uncomfortable because they have been accused of plundering our resources by political and business sectors who harshly criticized the fishing agreements.

Finnish Government Grants Aid for Road Repair

PY2704140689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Summary] The Transportation Ministry reported that the Finnish Government has granted a donation of $9,205,000 for a road repair program.

Suriname

Military Police Spring Suspect From Jail

PM2704114089 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 19 Apr 89 pp 1, 3

[Unnamed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Surinamese Military Drags Man From Police Cell"]

[Excerpt] Paramaribo, 19 Apr—Yesterday 35 heavily armed members of the Surinamese military police dragged a detainee from a civilian police cell in Paramaribo. As a result the civilian police began an indefinite strike yesterday evening.

The suspect is 30-year-old O.S. [Orlando Swedo], who is accused of complicity in mass murders in the maroon village of Moiwana in November 1986. A 49-year-old man also suspected of complicity in the murders is still in custody.

Last week members of the military authority were already warning in private of a "bloodbath" if the civilian police did not release the suspects. Yesterday the military police patrol appeared at the Tammenga police station just outside Paramaribo at 1130 hours Surinamese time. Traffic was halted, the police station surrounded, and the six officers on duty were threatened. These then decided to open the door of O.S.'s cell.

The detainee is alleged to have taken part in the mass slaughter in Moiwana in November 1986 while a member of the paramilitary people's militia. According to reports from human rights organizations, at least 35 maroons were shot down in cold blood.

President Shankar, Vice President Arron, and other members of the government yesterday met with the Army leadership in a meeting that lasted several hours. Attorney General Reeder and Judge Advocate De Freitas were also present. Nothing was said publicly about the talks, which continued today. However, the president did issue a statement yesterday evening calling on the army and the police "to refrain from doing anything that could exacerbate this controversy." [passage omitted]

Bouterse Says Army Ready To Assume Police Role

PM2704115489 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 20 Apr 89 p 2

[Unnamed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Bouterse: Army Ready To Take Over Functions of Police"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 20 Apr—The Surinamese Army "is in readiness" to take over the functions of the civilian police, Army leader Bouterse said yesterday in an address to the soldiers of the Memre Boekoe barracks in Paramaribo. Since Tuesday evening [18 April] the civilian police have been on strike after a man suspected of multiple murders was removed from a civilian police cell earlier in the day. The man, the 30-year-old O.S. [Orlando Swedo], is alleged to have been involved in 35 murders in the maroon village of Moiwana in November 1986.

Bouterse described the present police leadership as unreliable and declared that he had no confidence in it. The Military Authority will no longer allow soldiers to be "mistreated, molested, and tyrannized" by the police, Bouterse said. Commander Mijnals said that it is not right to prosecute a man who has been operating under military orders. "If people want to investigate these matters, then let them come to the military authority," Mijnals said.

Bouterse said that he had ordered the military police to remove O.S. from his cell. Bouterse said that he had informed President Shankar that the Army would take action if the man had not been handed over to the military police by 0930 hours. The president asked that the deadline be put back to 1030 hours. When nothing happened the Army took action at 1130 hours, the Army leader said.

Since Tuesday evening the civilian police have retired to the Zorg en Hoop police training center and to individual police posts. At Zorg en Hoop the road has been closed. After Bouterse's address a number of Army vehicles were patrolling the streets of Paramaribo.

In a telephone conversation yesterday morning with some sectors of the media, a commander in Brunswijk's Jungle Commando demanded that the Colombians and Bolivians arrested last week for drug smuggling be released if the police are on strike. They must not fall into the hands of the military. The spokesman explained that the Jungle Commando has had contacts with the detainees, who were said to have provided the Jungle Commando with uniforms and arms. If the demand is not met, bombings can be expected in Paramaribo, the commander said.

Civilian Government-Army Tension Increases

PM2704132689 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 20 Apr 89 p 2

[Gijsbert van Es article: "Surinamese Army Escapades Show Weakness of Democracy"]

[Text] Rotterdam, 20 Apr—The unsteady power structures in Suriname have fallen into serious imbalance in the last few days. On Tuesday evening [18 April] 35 heavily armed soldiers arrived at a police station in Paramaribo to remove a professional soldier suspected of involvement in at least 35 murders in the maroon village of Moiwana from a civilian police cell. Since then the civilian police have been on strike.

The civilian government, which has been seeking in vain for the last year and a half to bring about a peace with the people of eastern Suriname, is faced with another test of strength—preventing fighting between the Army and police. If the Army does indeed take over the police stations, as Army leader Bouterse threatened yesterday, the outcome will be difficult to predict. It is impossible to predict whether the civilian police will surrender without striking a blow.

Teachers' and customs officials' unions have already stated that they will also stop work if the Army persists in the rape of the Suriname's law-based state. That could be the beginning of a wave of strikes. For no matter how much the elected government is being described, and increasingly loudly, as weak, almost no one in Suriname wants a return to the military regime that for 8 years ruined the country's economy.

The next few days will, however, make clear how strong or weak the position of the "old politicians" is. The government has always adopted the position that the power of the military can only be rolled back step by step. Now it will become apparent to all how many steps have been taken and in which direction.

The fact that Bouterse's party, the National Democratic Party, suffered a major election defeat in November 1987 (winning only 3 of the 51 parliamentary seats) has not chastened the Army. Behind the scenes Bouterse has remained more than just an adviser to the government. And publicly too the military has made a point of showing itself, with a great deal of fighting talk and sometimes in escapades greatly embarrassing to civilian politicians.

Thus in December the Army challenged democracy with the arrest of human rights activist Stanley Rensch. The military held him for 2 weeks because he was alleged to have incited rebel leader Brunswijk to activities undermining the state. The military was never able to make this allegation stick. After cautious pressure from the civilian authorities they were forced to allow Rensch to go free.

On 23 December the military police held Netherlands diplomat Van der Kroon for some hours for not carrying his passport. The Surinamese Government later described the arrest as "a misunderstanding" for which they later apologized to the Netherlands. Observers have interpreted this action as a provocation by the military police after the outcome of the Rensch affair, which was so frustrating for them.

The fact that the civilian police and the judicial authorities last week detained a professional soldier on suspicion of involvement in the Moiwana murders is an indication of growing self-confidence on the part of these bodies. However, the word "Moiwana" has an explosive ound in Suriname. The name of this badly affected aroon village is the symbol of the army's reign of terror under the Bouterse regime. It seems as if the civilian authorities wanted to see how far they can go by initiating a judicial inquiry into this case. Almost immediately the military made it clear where they draw the line.

According to statements by Bouterse, President Shankar was informed in advance of the Army's "action to free" the detainee. Shankar was unable to prevent this action. This shows how little power Surinamese democracy has to keep the military inside their barracks.

The military justify their action by pointing out that the suspect in the civilian cell was a professional soldier. Therefore he should answer to a military court for his possible misdeeds. The civilian police counters by saying that at the time of the Moiwana slaughter the suspect was a member of the paramilitary People's Militia. This latter organization does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Army leadership. This will make the affair into an interesting case if the issue at stake is where the power of the military ends and that of civilians begins.

But the military action the day before yesterday must above all be seen in the light of the Amnesty Law, the draft of which the government submitted to the National Assembly last week. According to this draft legislation, the offences committed by the military and members of the Jungle Commando since 1 January 1985 will go unpunished because they are the result of the war situation in eastern Suriname.

Crimes against humanity fall outside the scope of this legislation, and that must make the military nervous. For much of what has happened since the beginning of the rebellion (summer 1986) cannot reasonably be discounted as force majeure in a jungle war. Around 150 to 200 people have been illegally executed by the military, according to a report from UN human rights investigator Wako at the beginning of last year after an investigation in Suriname. Army leader Bouterse was already saying in early December that any digging into his men's past could lead "to turbulence in the Army that could be difficult to control." His warning had been given.

Tension Persists Over Arrested Soldier

PM2704143389 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 21 Apr 89 p 6

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Surinamese Army Hands Soldier Over to Police"]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo—The strike by the Surinamese police has ended. This happened after a statement by the government that "it is most profoundly regretted" that the Army removed a 30-year-old soldier, Orlando Swedo, from a police cell Tuesday [18 April]. The Army handed Swedo back to the police yesterday.

The man is suspected of involvement in the murder of inhabitants of the maroon village of Moiwana in 1986.

However, the Surinamese police union may have to hold new consultations, because 15 minutes after the announcement of the government's position land forces Commander Sital said that he is "extremely indignant." He said that the government had not adhered to agreements reached over the Swedo affair.

The Army leadership has put combat forces on alert. According to Sital, Suriname must consider the possibility of a "determined operation to rescue" the four foreigners currently in custody for cocaine smuggling. "The confiscated cocaine is also a great attraction," Sital said. According to Sital, the four men under arrest—probably Bolivians and Colombians—should be transferred to Fort Zeelandia, because the Army can guard them better than the poorly equipped police. [passage omitted]

All of Suriname's trade unions have voiced their disapproval of the removal of a soldier from a police cell. Trade union chairmen Derby (of the C47 union) and Van Russel (of the Moederbond) called on their members not to react emotionally. Derby: "Let us talk about the question of power in Suriname. This government is unable to pilot us through the post-military period. The Front was elected with 95 percent of the votes, but it does not demonstrate any power to act or any inventiveness." The trade unions have decided to wait for the time being for the reaction of the police union to the outcome of talks between the Army and the government.

Army Chief Defends Freeing of Murder Suspect

PM2704144989 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 22 Apr 89 p 7

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Surinamese Police Release Soldier Suspected of Murder"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The soldier Orlando Swedo—suspected of the murder of maroons—who was "freed" from a police cell by the Surinamese Army Tuesday [18 April] and handed back to the police Thursday, has been released. Yesterday he was sitting in the front row during a speech by Army leader Desi Bouterse at the Memre Boekoe barracks in Paramaribo.

Bouterse said that he has reached an agreement with the government on a ban on the civilian police investigating military actions. "The position of the man carrying out these actions has been made secure," Bouterse said. However, he remained vague about the remaining content of the agreement—"out of respect for the president."

According to the Army leader, Swedo's arrest fits in with "a scenario determined by the Netherlands. The Netherlands wants members of the armed forces to be tried and sentenced. They want to make Suriname into a sort of Argentina. I do not think that our government can avoid making clear its position in this respect. The military must be able to feel protected."

The army leadership has apologized to President Shankar for the freeing of Swedo from the police cell. "Perhaps formal mistakes were made. But whenever your life is in danger, then you are allowed to make formal mistakes from time to time," Bouterse said. According to Bouterse, the law-based state was not endangered by the actions of the army.

Government Reports Rebel Attack Near Paramaribo

FL2504140689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Suriname says rebels have captured a village leader and two other people in a raid at Pokigron, about 150 km south of Paramaribo. Sunday's raid was reportedly led by rebel Commander Ronnie Brunswijk and the attackers included two non-Surinamese English-speaking guerrillas. About 50 houses were burned down in the attack, according to the government.